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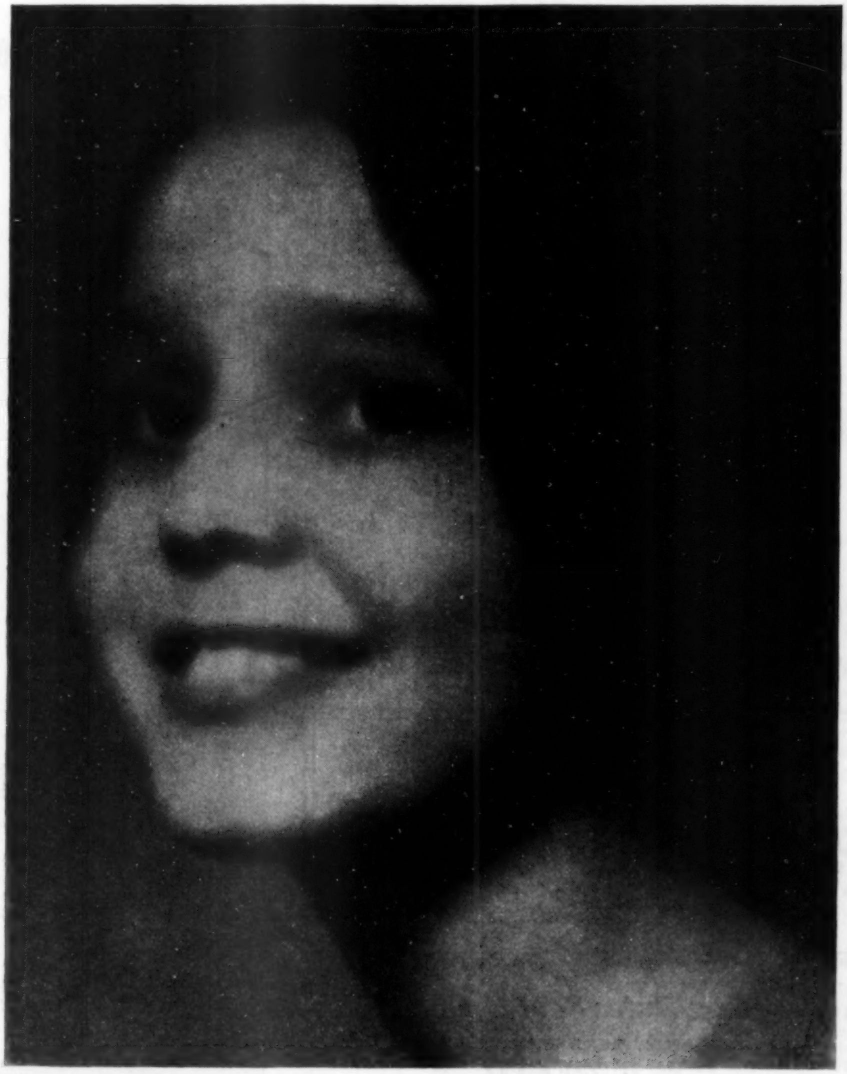

JUANITA E. JACKSON

*(Leader of Young People Joins N.A.A.C.P. Staff—See page 272)*

# ETHIOPIA AWAKENS

## By Reuben S. Young

# The Choice of A Nation

## The World's Greatest Weekly --- The World's Greatest Fighter

Volunteers Pour In For War

The Chicago Defender

Defender Correspondent Given High U.S. Position

ETHIOPIAN CONFLICT STIRS WORLD

Two More Lynched In Mississippi

Italy Continues Its War Plans

THE
**Chicago Defender**
WORLD'S GREATEST WEEKLY

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# THE CRISIS

Founded 1910
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## *A Record of the Darker Races*

ROY WILKINS, Managing Editor
ADVISORY BOARD
*J. E. Spingarn* *Dr. Louis T. Wright* *James Weldon Johnson* *Lewis Gannett* *Walter White*

*Volume 42, No. 9* *Whole No. 297*

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## NEXT MONTH

**Next month we expect to have the delayed article on the TVA by John P. Davis.**

•

**There will be a short story "Serena Sings" by Octavia B. Wynbush.**

•

**There will be a piece also by Charles H. Houston on the fight for more equitable educational facilities.**

•

**The November issue will have a section devoted to children. Photographs and information should be in THE CRISIS office by October 1.**

•

**Also in the November issue will be an article by Abraham Epstein, Executive Secretary of the American Association for Social Security, in which will be discussed the social security bill just passed by Congress and its relation to Negro workers.**

•

**In the November issue also we expect to present an article on domestic servants, "The Bronx Slave Market" which was promised earlier this year.**

•

**In one of the fall issues will be a piece by Ira DeA. Reid, professor of Sociology at Atlanta University.**

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•

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# Ethiopia Awakens

## By Reuben S. Young

***Dr. Young lived for one year in Ethiopia and speaks here from personal observation***

ETHIOPIA is an empire comprising five kingdoms ruled over by a feudal emperor whose capital is Addis Ababa located in the kingdom of Abyssinia.

The five kingdoms are (1) Tigre in the north adjoining Eritrea, an Italian possession which bounds the north and eastern section; (2) Godjam in the northwest adjoining Anglo-Egyptian Sudan; (3) Jimma in the southwest adjoining Anglo-Egyptian Sudan in the west and Kenya province in the south; (4) Harrar in the southeast adjoining Kenya province and Italian Somaliland, British Somaliland and French Somaliland; (5) Abyssinia which occupies a central position with the capital Addis Ababa, the seat of the government.

These five kingdoms were ruled over by feudal kings who were not responsible to the emperor. They had their own autocratic governments, taxed the people as they saw fit, collected their own customs and levies, and kept their own standing armies which they used for making war against one another or would lead into battle against the common enemy in unity with the emperor in times of foreign invasion.

Menelik, the late Emperor who died about 1916, made an effort to consolidate the empire by establishing a central government, but he found the various kings hostile and, although a parliament was set up, there was no cohesion as each king fought to protect his own interests. This led to a civil war which continued for several years without any definite results. It was during this period that the three big powers brought pressure to bear on him by threats of war, and to stave off a foreign invasion, he gave up the seacoast to them. Italy received the northern and southern portion, viz., Eritrea and Italian Somaliland, France, the middle section adjoining Eritrea with the port of Djibouti; and England the southeast section called British Somaliland.

Haile Selassie who became Emperor in 1930, set about to continue and make effective the task left by his predecessor, that is, to arrive at a central control of the country in which uniform laws could be made and respected; the army could be controlled from a central body; interstate laws could be made, thus laying a foundation for the change from feudalism to capitalism. Realizing the difficulties of forced change which would precipitate a civil war giving the "Big Three" further chance to grab more of his territory, he set out to accomplish this centralization by peaceful means.

### Takes Over Kingdoms

Instead of placing his son as King of Harrar, when he became the Emperor, he placed a governor in charge who is directly responsible to the government in Addis Ababa. Over the kingdom of Jimma, he gained control through the marriage of that king to the Emperor's daughter, his status being changed to governor of Jimma, and is now controlled from Addis Ababa. His greatest difficulty was to bring Godjam and Tigre in line. The King of Godjam, the richest and most powerful of the feudal kings who descended through an unbroken line of kings over a period of thousands of years, was recalcitrant and stubborn to change. He was invited to the coronation in 1930, given special duties in the capital where he was detained for over two years until he was practically forgotten by his subjects. When Ras Hailu found that there were motives in detaining him, he started intrigues with the Italians for which he was tried for treason and imprisoned for life. Thus Godjam passed from a feudal state to one ruled by a governor directly responsible to Addis Ababa. The kingdom of Tigre was next tackled. Since this territory is bounded by the Italian colony, it needed the greatest tact to preserve any sign of internal dissatisfaction. This was overcome by the crown prince marrying the daughter of the King of Tigre, thus making the king a part of the Emperor's family and winning him over to centralization.

I am frequently asked the question; Why is it that the country has not made any progress in industrialization? The answer is that as long as the country was divided into separate kingdoms, ruled over by kings who were not responsible to the Emperor for their acts, the laws promulgated by the Emperor had no effect and were not respected. Any contract or concession given to foreigners for developing the country was null and void whenever the contractor entered the territory of one of these kings, who would refuse to respect such contract as not having his consent. Many such concessionaires were driven out by the army of these hostile rulers. Prior to this centralization, proclamations against slavery were ineffective except in the immediate territory of the Emperor. Now that the kingdoms have been brought under central control, the recent proclamation against slavery will be effective, and the relationship between master and slave will now be changed to master and wage worker, thus laying the foundation for a peaceful transformation from feudalism to capitalism.

### Japan Enters Picture

The big powers of Europe have been watching this evolution with interest, and each has been waiting his chance to use pressure in obtaining more concessions. They had hoped and prayed for internal disorder to assist their plans and no intrigue was left untried in order to bring this about. The Italians were the most aggressive in this respect and tried to foment a war between Ras Hailu and the Emperor in the spring of 1932, but he was quickly captured by means of aeroplanes and a civil war was averted. The Emperor, sensing that a united front was developing between the "Big Three" to conquer the country, began to court the Americans by giving them a concession to build the dam at Lake Tsana. He also tried to obtain a loan from the American bankers but in order to get same would have had to give over the custom service as security, and since this is the chief means by which the government is maintained, this would have led to a surrender of the country to American interests. There was only one country left to whom the Emperor could turn and that was Japan. A commission was sent to Japan in the fall of 1931, which resulted in a trade agreement and concessions of land to grow cotton. By 1932 Japanese goods began to arrive in the country, causing a great deal of adverse comments by the European traders. Thus a new aspect was injected into a tense political situation and called for new tactics by the "Big Three."

France, which had been the chief adviser to Menelik and who assisted Haile Selassie to overthrow Lidj Yasu, the rightful heir to the throne, found herself saturated with colonial possessions which owing to her falling birthrate during the past two generations, and which she is unable to man efficiently with Frenchmen, but must rely on natives and foreigners;—is unable at this time to undertake further colonial expansion. England is also saturated and owing to the restlessness of India and other sections of her black empire, is unwilling to further irritate her colonials by further aggression.

Italy has, therefore, been given free hand to undertake the task of subjugating the "Last of Free Africa," thus completing the subjugation of the black peoples.

Italy has been making preparations for at least five years for this invasion. In 1930 she obtained a concession from the Emperor for a radio station with hook-up in different sections of the country. This was built at Addis Ababa and completed in 1932. During the year 1932, she established consular offices at Godjam in the territory of Ras Hailu and began her intrigue with Ras Hailu against the Emperor. She also established mission stations in various parts of the country catering chiefly or exclusively to the Mohammedan population in order to win their good graces and pit them against the Christians; and without permission from the Emperor, a survey was made of the country, mapping out the country by means of aeroplanes. I also had information that the Italian government had amassed a fleet of five hundred aeroplanes and a large standing army at Eritrea ready for service. France, however, would not give consent to Mussolini to attack as she was still unwilling to give up the railroad through which she had a monopoly of the country.

England in the meantime was preparing to quit the country, and was willing to liquidate her concession, i.e., the banking monopoly, a subsidiary of the Bank of Egypt. In the fall of 1931, she suddenly decided to sell her interest to the Ethiopian government, final delivery to take place at the end of 1934. In the contract no provision was made to train the Ethiopians to man the bank, but instead a provision to prevent them from entering the bank before delivery. It should not be surprising then that in January of this year, immediately after the bank was delivered that France also consented to share her concession, i.e., the railroad with Italy and gave open approval to Italy for a free hand, thus allowing full mobilization of an invading army.

EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE, I, OF ETHIOPIA

**Rich in Natural Resources**

Having lived in Ethiopia a year, during which time I made contact with a large section of the population including Mohammedans, Christians, freedmen and slaves, I can safely say that there is a strong anti-imperialist feeling. There seems to be a general understanding that their progress is retarded through the machinations of the big powers who put every obstacle in the way of the government to prevent the progress of the country. They are also aware of the fact that concessions in the favor of land to any foreigner or foreign power will finally lead to subjugation by said power. They have, therefore, resigned themselves to let evolution take its course, waiting for the opportunity when the great powers will be so weakened that they will be forced to give technical aid without the use of undue pressure. For these reasons I am convinced that they will not yield an inch of territory to Italy without a combat. They are a proud people who will not sacrifice their freedom for imperialist slavery. They have seen the treatment of darker peoples by the big powers and prefer to remain in their backward state rather than submit to the barbarous treatment meted out to the colonies by the so-called civilized races. They are, however, quite amenable to friendship with Americans whom they think will be more lenient in their political designs than the Europeans.

Afro-Americans should understand the basic cause of their present trouble, should understand, also, that the foundation is now laid for the change from feudalism to an industrial economy, and that this process is inevitable, hence the need for quick action to prevent Italy from gobbling up the country and thus getting on the ground floor to reap the profits that must come from the rich deposits of minerals. We cannot rely on any help from England and France who are allies of Italy in the grab.

The valleys and rivers of the country are rich with gold and precious stones. The natives are still washing gold from the river bed after five thousand years, with good results. The mountains are rich with ores and coal, the deserts are laden with iron and the plains with oil. The natives are clamoring for a higher standard of life and for knowledge through education. Many native sons have been sent to European schools to be prepared for the new day, but the

*(Continued on page 283)*

# Factors Controlling Negro Health

## By Louis T. Wright

***Dr. Wright is the leading exponent of the school of Negro medical thought which regards activities of various foundations and funds in the field of Negro health with suspicion, but he outlines here also other detriments to Negro health***

THE health of the American Negro is a matter of importance to this nation, because to neglect it causes an actual reduction of its potential man-power, which may have far-reaching effects in event of a serious war. From an epidemiological standpoint, America's ultimate health is no more strongly protected than that of its colored citizens, because Negroes constitute such a large proportion of the population that it would be practically impossible to isolate and quarantine such large numbers of people if a serious, widespread epidemic should ravage this country.

From the Negro's point of view, Dr. Louis I. Dublin points out that "An improvement in Negro health to the point where it would compare favorably with that of the white race, would at one stroke wipe out many disabilities from which the race suffers, improve his economic status, and stimulate its native abilities as would no other single improvement." The health of the Negro has been slowly but steadily improving during the past two decades, and it rises directly in proportion to his financial and social position, since there is no peculiar inherent physical, chemical or physiological defects in his body economy. On this point Trevor Bowen quotes the statistician of a large insurance company: "The very diseases and conditions from which the Negro suffers point out clearly that we are not concerned in any serious degree with weakness of stock or stamina. Other races when subjected to similar conditions of housing, hard work, limitations of food, clothing and medical attendance, show mortality rates no better than those for Negroes." This is further emphasized by the fact that Negro athletes when permitted to compete with athletes of all other racial groups have demonstrated physical strength, physiological response to effort and strain, and the ability to win exactly the same as athletes from any country in the world.

### *Tuberculosis Leading Cause*

The causes of illness and death of colored citizens are listed briefly as follows: (1) tuberculosis, (2) heart and kidney disease, arteriosclerosis—with or without cerebral hemorrhage, and combinations of the above conditions: these may be traced in many instances to carious or abscessed teeth, (3) maternal and infant mortality, (4) acute respiratory infections; as pneumonia, influenza and bronchitis, (5) venereal diseases, (6) deaths from injuries, (7) acute exanthemata, which includes such diseases as scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, et cetera, (8) cancer—a disease of middle age and after.

Tuberculosis, we all know now, is a disease that is rampant among the poverty-stricken of all races. Colored people, therefore, show high morbidity and mortality rates from this condition alone, due to, bad housing, inability to purchase proper food in adequate amounts, having to do laborious work while ill, little or no funds for medical care and treatment. Pneumonia, influenza and other acute respiratory tract diseases are not infrequent because of: overwork, malnutrition, limited opportunities for recreation, and poor-housing for cramped living quarters provide excellent means of direct transmission of infection. Venereal disease rates are high, but this is not due to lack of morals, but more directly to lack of money, since with adequate funds these diseases can be controlled easily. Control of these diseases depend upon a thorough knowledge of the clinical course of the condition, an understanding of the consequences of contracting one of these diseases, treatment by a competent physician, and the practice and use of prophylaxis to prevent infection. Venereal disease rates are very low among the well-to-do and wealthy of all races, as they have the money with which to obtain the best information and treatment. Arteriosclerosis, cardiac and renal diseases may be traced to bad teeth in many instances, usually combined with hard work. Diet, body warmth and lack of rest are also important factors. Maternal and infant mortality rates are high because Negro mothers receive inadequate pre-natal care, they have to work while pregnant in most instances, and home conditions for the new born child are unsanitary and offer many health hazards due to lack of funds.

Accidental injuries and deaths are not uncommon—they are of interest from the racial point of view only in that colored people are unable to pay for skilled care and treatment in most instances and in practically no instances if the case is long drawn out. The acute diseases of childhood are common and living in small quarters practically guarantee that all of the other children in the family contract the disease, and deficient funds for medical treatment means that they receive little or no treatment. Cancer as cause of illness and death on colored people is becoming better known. Some years ago I made a study at the request of the American Society for the Control of Cancer, and it showed that Negroes did not apparently have cancer to the same extent as other races because cancer is a disease of middle age and later, and the Negro was killed off before reaching the cancer age from tuberculosis, childhood diseases, malnutrition, et cetera,—which actually means poverty, discrimination in and bad housing, unemployment and low wages were actually the death-producing factors. So the talk about Negroes not having cancer is a myth. Those who survive the strain of oppression and race prejudice in all of its aspects exhibit cancer proportionately the same as other races.

### *Indifferent Health Officials*

From the foregoing sketch of disease conditions affecting the Negro it would seem that the lack of funds is the chief and only handicap under which he labors, but such is not the case. In addition to poverty, there is superimposed the absence of adequate guarantees by city, state and federal authorities in regard to health. Racial discrimination and prejudice now enter an already sad picture, and we find health officers and public health officials unresponsive to and neglectful of the health of one-tenth of America's total population. Lethargy best describes their attitude and actions if disease is confined to the Negro quarters, but unusual alertness is immediately manifest if even the fear of the possibility of its spread to a white district develops. It is true that the white population is at times afraid that some colored maid or butler may bring scarlet fever or diphtheria into their homes, since disease knows no color line, but they are not apparently aware of the fact that the colored people are not granted simple justice in health matters—the same that is granted to citizens of all other races in this country, by the duly elected and appointed health officials. On shoulders of public health officials rests a tremendous, unrecognized responsibility, which it is to be hoped that in the best interest of the country, in their own interest and in the interest of colored people, they will eventually appreciate.

It is too obvious a truth to say that the health of the country is inextricably tied up with the health of its Negro population, and that the continuance of the methods and actions of white America generally, as they relate to the health of its black citizens will prove a boomerang that they little anticipate or envisage. The average public health official is not even concerned about the health of his colored constituents, and his protestations of interest along these lines, are given the lie by his actions. It is a form of lynching by indirection, only death is much slower and at times more agonizing. The exception proves the rule, so I do not wish to be understood as indicting every public health official in this country in this respect, but only about eighty per cent of them, as evidenced by their actions that they are neutral on the extermination of the Negro citizen scientifically by disease.

In February, 1932, in *Opportunity* magazine, I had occasion to review an article that had appeared in "Human Biology" by one S. J. Holmes, entitled "Differential Mortality in the American Negro." This time it is not the public health official but the supposed research scholar who enters to torment further the Negro with his health problems.

The case in point is the work of Holmes, who stated that the "high morbidity of the Negro is a direct consequence of ignorance and unfavorable surroundings and that many diseases among Negroes can be explained on the basis of environment," and then this "expert" compared morbidity rates of Negroes in gross with the gross morbidity rates of white people. At that time I made this comment: "I am impatient with comparative racial statistical studies. It seems that those who indulge in these pastimes forget to compare and classify Negroes into groups and to compare them with similarly placed groups in other races, if there are such other similar groups. For example, one cannot tell from his work whether he was comparing a group of Jews in New York's ghetto district with all Negroes or whether he was basing his statistics upon studies of the mortality of Italians around 116th Street and First Avenue, New York City, with all Negroes, or whether his study represented a cross-section of whites from the State of New York or a cross-section of whites from the State of Mississippi or the mountainous regions of Georgia. It is obvious that the mortality rate and the factors affecting mortality, and even the records of mortality and morbidity statistics in the State of New York would make the data of entirely different value than similar data obtained from Mr. Menken's prize state—Mississippi."

It is clear, even to the simple-minded, that if Negro college graduates had one-half the money that is paid to these quasi-erudite white investigators and social workers for making comparative racial studies, there would be a sharp decline in Negro morbidity and mortality. All such studies have attempted to prove that which is untrue, namely, that the Negro is different in the main from other peoples, and I am sorry to say that some of our naïve physicians and professors have taken these worthless, subtly insidious and damnable statements at their face value, and have been teaching these untruths to our people for truths—not realizing that they were being used as tools to further biased white propaganda, and thus endanger not only the health of the Negro, but the health of all American citizens as well. Thus it is seen that the research scholar plays his part in the control of Negro health.

### *Social Service Organizations*

We now come to the part played by social service organizations and agencies in further limiting the opportunities of the Negro to gain health. Uplift organizations like the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association and the National Tuberculosis Association all aim at palliation instead of the correction of the real evil, which is poverty and race prejudice. To be sure, they are interested in cutting down morbidity and mortality rates among Negroes, so as to protect the whites who may be contacted by any Negroes afflicted with disease, but their chief interest, in my opinion, is much more deeply rooted. They give widespread publicity to the prevalence of the specific disease for two reasons: (1) the threat and menace of the disease among Negroes is presented vividly and dramatically to the wealthy subscribers to

(*Continued on page* 280)

DR. LOUIS T. WRIGHT

# Political Segregation in South Africa

## By Jameson Gilbert Coka

"NO native in future will be registered in the same roll as Europeans" is the keynote to the New Native Representation Bill, as finally shaped by the Select Committee on Native Bills for presentation to the next Parliamentary sitting. The committee which has been engaged in this task for the last ten years has at last agreed on the principle of segregation, not however with a view of giving full self-determination to the Africans, but for the furtherance of their exploitation and the perpetuation of "White supremacy."

"The Native must accept as the fundamental basis of his political rights, the supremacy of the Whiteman not only in South Africa but throughout the whole of Africa," was the leading article of the *Sunday Times,* South Africa's biggest weekly. And this policy stands as the corner stone of the proposed new bills. There are at present ten thousand African voters in the Cape Province who qualify for their franchise exactly as Europeans do, i.e., they have an income of 96 pounds a year, some property and have at least passed the Sixth Standard. This right granted by liberal Great Britain 80 years ago, has not been abused. And research workers have soothed away all fears of black domination by proving that even after three hundred years, the black vote as such could not play a leading role, let alone a predominant one, in the political life of the Union. This is more clear after the granting of the franchise to European women as well as men. But now it has to go in order to crown the political edifice based on "no equality in matters of church or state between whites and blacks" and to justify a new African policy based on the perpetual subordination of blacks to whites.

Protected by the act of Union, this democratic right would in the ordinary nature of things have only been forfeited after a two-thirds majority vote of both houses, Senate and House of Assembly, sitting together. But that necessity has diminished owing to the fusion between the conservative and reactionary Boer landlords and the semi-Liberal Boers and Britishers into the South African National party under the leadership of General J. B. M. Hertzog, leader of the Nationalists, who carries out a nationalist policy towards blacks. Moreover this new government is desirous of laying down the line of a future policy with regards to the treatment of blacks and if Mr. O. Pirow, the Minister of Defence had his way, all blacks would be disarmed, subjugated, exploited and oppressed, before Africa is fit for "civilization."

***American Negroes should recognize easily the situations described by Mr. Coka and the pronouncements of South African whites, for the same political philosophy, with but few exceptions, holds sway in Dixie***

### Pattern for Africa

Thus when the present voters die, that will be the end of black voters. That is the ordinary surmise but there is no guarantee of good faith with this government, so that none will be surprised to hear that the voters have been given a smoke screen and their franchise taken away, because this government believes in over-centralization for blacks and under the regime of "government by proclamation," such exceptions as "To all the natives of the Union of South Africa, excepting the registered voters" would be distasteful and so we shall have an agitation for its repeal ere long.

However, to leave speculations for realities, Africans in Natal, Cape, Orange Free State and Transvaal combined, and the Transkeian territories in the Cape, will each be constituted into an electoral college composed of "approved" chiefs, Native Advisory Boards and some "fit and proper" Africans in order to elect a "White" senator to represent them in the dumb Senate, which only passes laws made in Parliament. In addition the government will appoint four other senators to represent African interests. The total representation of 7,000,000 people will be eight senators! (The progressive and Liberal Union revives the idea of electoral colleges, which the Little Corsican blew away in thunder at Austerlitz, when he gave a coup de grace to the Holy Roman Empire in 1806). The same electoral colleges will each elect three members to an advisory council, consisting of twenty-two members, four appointed by the government, five being "White" Chief Native Commissioners from each electoral college (an electoral college roughly corresponds to a province) and the chairman will be the Secretary for Native Affairs. This dummy body will enjoy the distinction of being the "Mouthpiece of the Africans." All laws and proclamations purely affecting African interests will be sent there for discussion. And the end of all their talks will be vain, for this august body will not have the power of initiating laws or compelling the government to change its policy, because the final power will rest as hithertofore, in Parliament in which Africans will have no representation.

This measure is a farcical face-saving of the Union government to delude the world into believing that their Native policy is changing for the better. It is not. Far from that; it is rather taking an opposite direction to that which optimists think. For the first time, the principle of perpetual enslavement and denial of citizen rights is being unequivocably laid down as the future portion of Africans. And that is not all. Native policy in the Union has far reaching repercussions. Southern Rhodesia is keenly watching it and adapting it. In the proposed Central-African Dominion, composed of Northern Rhodesia, Nyasaland and British East Africa, it will be adapted as the cardinal African Policy. More, as the British government is so reluctant to hand over the Basutoland, Swaziland and Bexhuanaland protectorates to the Union, the latter wishes to impose upon the former and prove that their policy is becoming liberal because they have given a restricted, collective, franchise to a clique of "Good" boys.

### Maintaining Supremacy

South Africa easily avoids the difficulty that would ensue in exploiting voters forever, by simply refusing to grant to her slaves the power of electing representatives to the legislature merely on account of their color. It is also repugnant to South African ideas of "White supremacy" to be on the same political level with an "inferior people, predestined to be slaves to the dominant Whites." So White South Africa arrogates to herself the divine attribute of deciding the destiny of a whole people without consulting them. And there is no better example of oligarchy than the Union where one and one-half million Whites, mainly on account of their color, rule 7 million Blacks with a rod of iron, merely because of their hair!

It is needless to say that the people most vitally concerned in the critical decision about their future fate, Africans, have not been consulted nor are they likely to be, since the Whites in their infallible wisdom know what

(*Continued on page* 274)

# "How Far from Here to Mexico?"

## By Sue Bailey Thurman

THE inspiration of the title calls back to those sultry summers of long ago when the children of my childhood gathering at nightfall ended the day with the favorite game:

"How far from here to Mexico?
"Threescore miles and ten."
"Can I get there by candlelight?"
"Yes, if the old gray witch
doesn't catch you on the way!"

. . . . .

Tonight in a quiet street in Mexico City I am again measuring the distance that lies between the United States and Mexico, but this time it is in terms of that which separates the American Negro from the land and inhabitants of our neighbor of the South. I have not often made my steps this way. Negroes are little known and seldom encountered here for only the very rare occasion brings Negroes from America to this place. Two young women came with the Hubert Herring Seminar, auspices of the Committee on Cultural Relations with Latin America, in 1931. In the same year a writer and an educator, newlywed, chose a honeynoon to Mexico via Vera Cruz. Our poet, Langston Hughes has made visits here to see his father who came long ago and elected to stay. More recently grooms accompanied the American entourage which came in for the International Polo Matches. And there was a jazz orchestra, one of the latest visitors, whose scheduled engagement met with ill-fortuned results. Now comes *La Imitacion de la Vida* which has been showing in Mexico City for several weeks and is dated for sometime ahead in the outlying districts of the city. I saw it again in Mexico just to make a study of the Mexican reactions. Much of it could not be transplanted to this Latin soil and be understood. But it was surprising how much of it could be and with what clear insight the audience took in the various nuances of its purport and meaning. There were expressions of "Mucho!" in praise of the acting of Louise Beavers. But from all indications the film held no "surprise element" for the Mexican theatregoers. It was as they expected it to be, if indeed it would be any kind of imitation at all! Its theme was concerned with the life and work of a devoted Negro servant, in which part we have appeared most often in real life among them.

***Since this article was written the Secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. has had a conference at the Mexican consulate in New York City and has been assured that Americon Negroes can secure tourist permits to Mexico without difficulty***

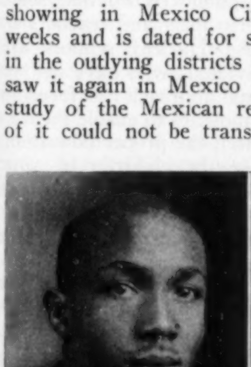
**Negroes Unknown**

They have seen us in the role of grooms, jazz orchestras or menial laborers employed at the whim of some American family or business firm resident in Mexico. They have seen the segregation of the Negro begin at Laredo, Tex., and extend north to Popular Bluff, Mo. They have gazed from drawing rooms bearing them onward to Washington or to city consulates, out upon the narrow streetways and dingy hovels of the segregated sections of our American cities. They have learned of us from the American white man in their midst, usually a southerner, who faithfully reflects in his own life the attitude of the United States itself toward its racial minority groups. Mexicans, themselves, know nothing about our artists or craftsmen, our educators, business or professional men, newspaper editors, if they suspect us of having newspapers, or students in contemporary life in America. Lacking such a vast range of intelligence it is small wonder that one's application for passport ("permit" it really is), should be held so long before being accorded the simple courtesy and deference due under the tourists-laws governing all Americans other than Negroes. They cannot believe that we are actually citizens of the United States, and where the idea is accepted it is taken to be a matter of little moment, rendered invalid by its limiting provisos.

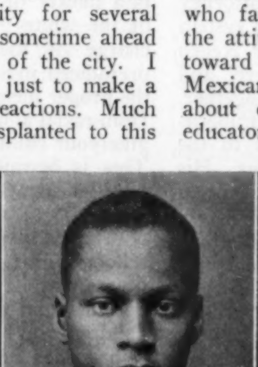
It is pleasant, indeed, that Louise Beavers can act and that as an actress she has been recognized by audiences in Mexico. But I am more concerned with the fate in Mexico of Louise Beavers the person, and I admit being genuinely distressed that the case has been such that had she applied for admission here, on any provocation of her own, purely as an American woman, she might have chosen another place to visit during the interminable period in which she would have waited for the permission to be granted without payment of bond.

It is more regrettable when one remembers that loveliness is here to sell at a rate of exchange in love of pure beauty! Natural beauty—a glimpse of proud Popacatepetl drowsing above the tropical valleys; henna, blue and olive landscapes, a gay backdrop for Santa Anita. Spiritual beauty—Chapultepec Park and the national band concerts; Mexican songs with guitar accompaniment strumming far into the night; lively feet dancing the *Jarabe;* slow-moving feet offering gardenias; swift, gliding feet, scarce touching the pavement; off to the new future of Mexico!

(*Continued on page 274*)



*Reyno Tapley*
*Highest Honor Student*
*Georgia State Industrial*



*Archie Howard Lucas*
*Honor Student*
*Virginia Union*

*Anna Howard Russell*
*Magna cum laude*
*Kentucky State*

*J. E. Briggs*
*M.Ed.*
*Temple University*

*Clifford M. H. Morton*
*M.A.*
*Indiana University*

# Harlem Seeks Political Leadership

## By Edgar T. Rouzeau

***Two Harlem districts which went Democratic in 1929 now seek to elect Negro district leaders and garner some important patronage for the residents of the largest Negro city in the world***

THE grand finale of the liveliest—some call it the dirtiest—of all political family fights in Harlem will occur primary day, September 17.

A number of candidates in each of two heavily Negro-populated units of the Democratic party, known as the Nineteenth and the Twenty-first Assembly districts, will attempt again to settle a biennial issue, the question of whether the party leadership in each of these districts, with all that the leadership means—control of patronage, power, opportunity for public service—should be turned over to a Negro or passed along to another white man, the usual story, even though white Democrats are the decided minority in each of these districts.

Two Negroes, Civil Service Commissioner Ferdinand Q. Morton, and Archibald M. Ray, a deputy collector in the Department of Internal Revenue, are stacked against Martin J. Healy, foxy white Democratic leader of the Nineteenth, and Harry C. Perry, chief clerk of the city court, another white aspirant to the leadership post.

Thomas Murray, present white leader of the Twenty-first, is not a candidate for reelection. He is being supplanted by his son-in-law, Charles J. Conklin, State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, who is opposed by Herbert L. Bruce, prominent Negro restaurateur, and Harry G. Bragg, Negro Assistant Attorney-General. Other white candidates are David Paris, former assemblyman, and Assemblyman William T. Andrews.

The post of district leader is purely titular. But while it pays no salary, no Tammany leader has ever been known to starve. The Society of Tammany, otherwise the Democratic party of New York City, may remain in power only as long as it continues to trounce the Republican and two or three minor parties on election day, in early November. To do this the Society of Tammany must register the highest percentage of the yearly vote, electing the mayor and his "cabinet" and the greatest number of aldermen, assemblymen and state senators.

### Half-Million for Jobs

Each Tammany district leader is expected to turn out his share of the vote for the party. To facilitate his task each leader is apportioned approximately half-million dollars in political patronage—positions exempt from the civil service list. The leader is supposed to "pass out" jobs and serve the community in such a manner as to keep all elements on the Tammany bandwagon. In Harlem, the current white district leaders stand accused of ignoring this principle upon which the Society of Tammany bases its successful existence.

All patronage for the Nineteenth and Twenty-first Assembly districts, ranging from judgeships and commissionerships to the humble school janitorships, are supposed to go to the party strategists and to faithful captains, inspectors and other workers who do the stair-climbing, the bell-pulling and the button-holing, and who spread the whispering campaigns in the process of contacting prospective voters and educating them to the Tammany way of thinking; but it doesn't.

A survey by the writer in 1933, the last year the leadership was contested, showed that the white appointees in the Twenty-first Assembly included a chief magistrate at $13,390 per annum, a justice of the city court at $15,040, a magistrate at $10,840, a supreme court justice at $22,500, and a supreme court clerk at $15,000, in addition to scores of less prominent positions paying from $6,000 to $1,500 yearly. The survey listed a Negro assistant district attorney and a clerk in the municipal court system at $3,730 each. The few other Negro appointees were in the $2,000 level, and the earnings of all, when put together, did not exceed $20,000 yearly. Publication of the figures almost led to the defeat of Leader Murray that year. His opponent was Henri W. Shields, a Negro attorney.

In fairness to the current white leaders of the Nineteenth and the Twenty-first Assembly districts, it is here conceded that most of the present white job holders were appointed in the years when the Harlem Negro voter was a staunch Republican, in the years when he voted blindly because Lincoln freed the slaves. In fairness to the Negro Democrat it must be pointed out that a number of white appointees have moved out of the Nineteenth and the Twenty-first Assembly districts with the influx of Negro voters. In other words, they have become ineligible to partake of the political gravy accruing to these districts.

Proponents of Negro leadership have indicted white leadership on charges of criminal lack of interest in the welfare of Harlem. It is widely admitted that the championing of the community's interests is worthy of more serious consideration than the dispensation of a few jobs to individuals. There are 204,000 Negroes in Harlem proper, according to the last federal census, and only 150 Negro politicians could be cared for in any one district if all the patronage were taken from the whites and given to them.

### White Leaders Not Interested

One who wishes to be enlightened on the rising sentiment for Negro leadership in Harlem might profit by glancing at the following excerpts, culled from the Negro Democrat, a four-page throw-away distributed by a Democratic club, leading the fight for Negro leadership in the Twenty-first Assembly.

"White district leaders cannot know your problems, for, after all, they look you up only once or twice a year. Around election time they come down and make a couple of speeches and promise you a basket at Christmas time in return for the most precious thing you possess—your vote. Then they go back home and laugh at what the present white leaders call, 'those dumb niggers.'

"The school buildings in Harlem, with one exception, are dark, antiquated firetraps, not fit for human beings. It is a matter of public record that some of the white principals and teachers in charge of these Harlem schools are prejudiced individuals who have neither the proper mental approach nor freedom from racial animosities to enable them to give your children the proper education. This is because the children of your white leader do not go to school in Harlem.

"If a blaze should raze one of these school firetraps, the charred lifeless body of your white leader's child would not be dug from the smoking embers. His child goes to school on Riverside Drive. What does he care that your child is exposed to dangers. Remember that a district leader could have remedied this situation had be cared.

"We come now to a plague spot that has blighted this community for many years." At this point the article names a well known city hospital. The author of the tirade continues:

(*Continued on page* 274)

# Engineers Who Wash Air

## By P. L. Prattis

***If you ride New York Central trains between Chicago and New York you will be breathing air which has been "washed" under the direction of a young colored engineer who was told a dozen or so years ago by members of his race and others that he shouldn't study engineering because a colored man "had no future in that line"***

LIKE most zealots, full of unbounded confidence in the value of their work, Howard D. Shaw, with no sense of shame, would compel you to believe that the future of the human race depends upon the kind of air that is to be manufactured for civilized persons. He would have neither sense of shame nor of compulsion, for it all seems so reasonable to him. Future wars, they tell us, are to be decided in the air. Shaw can explain much more convincingly that air is to be a potent factor in future peace. He is an engineer who washes and scrubs the air.

All about us now they are bandying a new compounded word—air-conditioned. Office buildings are being air-conditioned. Theaters are air-conditioned. Hospitals are air-conditioned. Libraries are air-conditioned. The air-conditioning engineers are busy—dreaming dreams and seeing visions. Wherever they can envisage the air caged up, they dream of putting it in condition, the best condition for human use—in schools, factories, stores, on ships and, finally, in millions of homes. They dream of a new American industry, based on the manufacture and supply of air-conditioning equipment, an industry under which the depression would vanish as morning dew under a fast-pacing sun.

In the front ranks of those who are to-day experimenting with the use of air-conditioning equipment is the Pullman company. The railroads have been forced to make travel by rail more attractive and comfortable. The Pullman company has placed emphasis on air-conditioned cars and has been active in the development and application of air-conditioning equipment. There is to be no more dust, no more odor, no more stuffiness in the air of Pullman cars. The "very best air" is to be supplied for its patrons. Future Pullman porters may throw away their whisk brooms, for there will be no dirt.

### He "Makes" Air

Howard D. Shaw is employed by the Pullman company. He has worked for that company for the better part of thirteen years, ever since he finished the course in electrical engineering at the University of Michigan He left the classroom and the collegiate environment, donned his overalls and went to work in and under Pullman cars. Of course, he started at the bottom. He was no more than a youngster. The Pullman company might be induced to hire colored Pullman porters, colored car cleaners, colored mechanics, colored helpers, but it was not taking on colored engineers as such. It might hire a colored helper who would demonstrate by his work that he was entitled to be a mechanic, or a mechanic who would prove to be an engineer. Faith had to be a part of the equipment of the colored employe who wished to advance. He had to be able to believe that no matter at what grade he started, his demonstrated skill and usefulness would advance him. We all know that that is not always true, but it did seem true to Shaw who worked and advanced by that rule of faith. By hard work and by a show of that arrogance of opinion which seems peculiar to mathematicians, he climbed and climbed until the Pullman company found that it did have a colored engineer in its employ.

*HOWARD D. SHAW*

To-day this boyish-looking man is in charge of the air-conditioning and electrical equipment in the Pullman cars on the New York Central trains running out of Chicago. His job is to make the air what we laymen call "sweet and fresh."

Passengers on the Twentieth Century, the Lake Shore Limited, the Fifth Avenue Special, the Commodore Vanderbilt, and numerous other trains, when they have reached their destinations, can truthfully claim: "The air I breathed on this trip was 'made' by a colored man!"

All their complaints and all their praise come back to him to be checked. The passengers themselves have some voice about the condition of the air they must breathe while traveling on Pullman cars. They are the final arbiters of what is "sweet and fresh and comfortable." They know what gives them a headache. Shaw's job is to remove the cause.

### Mixed Crew

The crew which aids Mr. Shaw in the superintendence of this electrical and air-conditioning equipment is variable in number, but normally contains about 30 men. Of this number, a small percentage is white. Twenty-five of the men are colored. Some are men who have finished approved courses in electrical engineering in accredited schools. Others have studied mechanical courses in such trade schools as Hampton and Tuskegee, have been employed by the Pullman company and have studied special courses applying to their work while they have been on the job. A. D. Watson, the assistant foreman, is a graduate in electrical engineering from Howard university. Frank Waver, the chief electrician, finished the engineering course in that branch at Armour institute.

The Pullman company itself conducts experiments in the development of air-conditioning equipment and it purchases and instals devices developed by others. The actual tests are made in operation in the cars. At a money cost running into thousands, the Pullman company purchases a new device, brings it to Mr. Shaw and says: "Here, see how this works. Let us know." His responsibility is to let the company know if it has wasted these thousands of dollars, to name defects and to suggest improvements.

The air-conditioners have some reason to believe that their new industry will bring back prosperity. In the last fifteen years, there have been enormous strides in the manufacture of air-conditioning equipment. Clyde L. Rogers

(Continued on page 283)

# A Review of the Sweet Case

## By Marian M. Singleton

***This is the essay which tied for first prize in the high school section of the N.A.A.C.P. contest in 1934. The author was a student then in Sumner high school, Kansas City, Kansas***

FROM penury to comparative affluence in thirty years, from virtually the humblest beginnings to the respected position of a leading Negro physician in a large American city—this is the story of Dr. Ossian H. Sweet, a Detroit physician, up to the year 1925. In September of that year fate intervened with an experience fit "to point a moral and adorn a tale." Dr. Sweet was born in Florida of poverty-stricken parents. Most boys would have been crushed and defeated by his environment, but Ossian Sweet was unusually ambitious. Impelled forward by his consuming urge to "get somewhere," he left home at the age of fifteen years to attend Wilberforce University, where he worked his way through college and later graduated from the School of Medicine at Howard University In 1922 he married Miss Gladys Mitchell, the daughter of a fairly well-to-do Detroit family. In 1923 the Sweets went abroad. While in Europe the Doctor pursued post-graduate work at the universities of Paris and Vienna. On their return to the United States the family lived at the home of Mrs. Sweet's parents. The arrival of a baby girl, Iva, in July, 1924, completed their happiness.

At the close of the first quarter of the century, the city of Detroit was in a fluid state of development. American industries were at the peak of post-war prosperity, and the motor-car industries were thriving. Many people migrated to Detroit, often called the "Motor City," seeking lucrative employment. Among the number, naturally, there were thousands of Negroes. They found that for a northern city the activity of the Klu Klux Klan was peculiarly aggressive in Detroit in city politics. There were, however, no serious attacks on Negroes such as characterized the activities of the Klan in the South in the early part of 1925.

Because laborers were making high wages, business and professional men were prospering. Members of the laboring classes were moving into the city daily where they were compelled to accept thoroughly inadequate housing conditions. As a result of the overcrowded conditions, those persons who were able were seeking homes in the suburbs, as far as possible from the congested areas. Motivated partly by a desire to escape the congestion of the city and partly by a desire to be in their own home, Dr. and Mrs. Sweet went house-hunting. When questioned later in this connection, Mrs. Sweet declared that the race to which the neighbors belonged did not influence her selection of the localities in which they searched for suitable homes. Having been a member of the only Negro family in a block for seven years of her life, she was entirely free from inhibitions of any sort that might be common to many Negroes in close contact with a Nordic group. Finally the desired house was found on Garland avenue. The cost of $18,500 was no barrier to the transaction and in June, 1925, the Sweets found themselves the contented possessors of a new home.

### Answer Shots of Mob

In that same month a mob of over fifteen hundred people attacked the home of Dr. A. L. Turner, a Negro dentist, and forced him to abandon it. Although this affair took place several miles from Garland avenue, Dr. Sweet delayed moving. In the month of July the neighbors in the locality of Garland avenue, most of them of foreign extraction, met at the school at Garland and Charlevoix avenues, ostensibly for the purpose of forming the Water-works Park Improvement Association. Communist and Klu Klux speakers were on the program. Shortly thereafter Dr. Sweet received a note warning him not to move into his house. Meanwhile, attacks on the homes of two other Negroes, V. A. Bristol, an undertaker, and Fletcher, a waiter, had intensified the fears of Dr. Sweet. He delayed moving, therefore, until September 8, when he summoned courage and moved the scant furniture owned by the family into the Garland avenue house, taking with him about ten guns for his protection. The following friends and relatives took up their residence with the Sweets in their new home: Henry Sweet, a younger brother of Dr. Sweet and a senior at Wilberforce University; Joe Mack, who drove the doctor's car; Dr. Otis Sweet, another of Dr. Sweet's brothers, a dentist; William E. Davis, a pharmacist; John Latting, Henry's chum; Miss Butler and Miss Rochelle, Mrs. Sweet's friends; and Leonard Morse and Charles B. Washington.

That night a crowd gathered about the house and muttered threats but dispersed without doing any harm. Wednesday evening, September 9, a larger crowd gathered in the vicinity. The arrival of Davis and Dr. Otis Sweet precipitated a barrage of stones. Soon someone outside fired several shots. Inside the house fear and consternation reigned. Surrounded by this hostile mob, remnants of that fear of white men which had been fostered, probably, by previous experience surged in the breasts of the Negroes in the Sweet house. Although they were evidently fighting a losing battle, the inmates decided to defend themselves as long as possible. Seizing guns they returned the firing upon the house. During the interchange of shots, Leon Breiner, a neighbor, sitting on his porch was killed and another white man was wounded. The shooting started at 8:25 o'clock and by 9:00 o'clock, when Breiner was killed, there were about twenty policemen and detectives on the corner. They had offered no serious resistance to the attack on the house nor to the attacks on two Negroes who were beaten because they chanced to pass the crowd on their way from work. But when Breiner was shot, they were suddenly aroused to the performance of their duty. Rushing inside they raised the shades high, exposing the unfortunate Negroes within to the gaze of the frenzied mob. Miraculously not one of the eleven was shot. They were, however, immediately arrested and taken to jail. Learning that the prisoners had not been allowed to call lawyers, Mrs. Sweet's mother summoned one. He was not allowed to see his clients until Friday afternoon, September 11. Saturday, September 12, they were arraigned and charged with murder in the first degree.

Feeling ran high in Detroit among the Negroes. Intense sympathy was manifested for the Sweets. The local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was immediately active and when the case became publicized, national headquarters sent Walter White to Detroit to investigate. Similar cases in seventeen other cities had come to its notice within a short period of time and the Association was anxious to see this one carried to a finish, believing that it would set a valuable precedent.

### Darrow Conducts Defense

The Sweet case was brought to trial on November 17, 1925. The state was forced to prove either that the eleven defendants had conspired to kill Leon Breiner or that a specific one of the eleven defendants had fired the fatal shot. Although the state had previously listed seventy-one eye-witnesses of the tragedy, when Robert M. Toms, county prosecutor, placed his witnesses on the stand, these witnesses themselves testified that only twelve or fifteen people were gathered around the Sweet home on the night of September 9. If it could be proved that a mob had formed around the house, then the Commissioner of Police would be responsible for the actions of that mob. It was, therefore, in an effort to uphold the honor of the Police Department that the neighbors and policemen gave conflicting testimony. Bewildered and thrown off his guard by the skillful questioning of Clarence Darrow, chief counsel for the defense, Officer Gill admitted having fired into the house, upon the people whom he was placed there to protect. Neighbors, undergoing a cross-examination by Mr. Darrow, admitted that the purpose of the Water-works Park Improvement Association was "to keep Negroes and foreigners out of the neighborhood."

When the state rested its case, the counsel for the defense, Messrs. Clarence Darrow and Arthur Garfield Hays of New York, Walter M. Nelson of Detroit, and Messrs. Perry, Rowlette and Mahoney of Detroit produced their witnesses. Character witnesses testified for Dr. Sweet. Mr. Darrow outlined Dr. Sweet's life, stressing his perseverance and the difficulties which he had overcome. He cited that when a mere child in Florida, Dr. Sweet had seen a Negro burned by a mob; as a young man he had seen the East St. Louis race riots. Mr. Darrow suggested that Dr. Sweet's ancestors had probably seen many Negroes lynched by mobs. This point was presented in picturing the unreasoning fear which must have possessed the defendants at sight of that throng which foreboded only harm to them. Finally witnesses, both white and colored, testified that a mob approximating five thousand had formed around the Sweet home on the night of September 9, 1925. It might be noted that the contrast between the intelligent Negroes who testified for the defense and the whites who testified for the state was marked.

On November 27, after all testimony had been heard, the jury retired, returning within a short time with the verdict, "Insufficient evidence." A mistrial was declared and a new trial was set for the first week in January. Mrs. Sweet had been freed on bail of $5,500 after spending a month in jail, but the other defendants had been detained. On December 2, they were all released on bail varying from $5,500 to $10,500. This first trial had cost $21,938.69. Of this amount the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People paid $11,377.74, most of which had been raised by popular subscription.

### Henry Sweet Defendant

For the second trial, the defense decided to change its strategy somewhat. Counsel for the defense now decided to have separate trials for each of the defendants. Although separate trials would take a longer time and involve greater expense, they had one advantage. In the event of the conviction of the first defendant, it was probable that there would be no more trials because only one person could have fired the bullet which killed Breiner. If the first defendant were acquitted, then the other cases would probably be dropped because there would be little hope of securing a conviction for the defendants.

Henry Sweet was selected for the first trial because he admitted having fired a gun. His trial was postponed until April 1, then until April 12, and finally because the counsel were engaged in other courts, it was postponed until April 19, 1926. The state was again represented by Prosecutor Toms. The defendant was represented by Messrs. Darrow, Julian Perry, and Thomas Chawke. Judge Murphy of the Recorder's Court again presided. This young Irishman maintained a very fair attitude during both trials, thereby winning many friends throughout the country. On April 19, Mr. Darrow began the selection of the jury. One hundred sixty-five men were impaneled before twelve were chosen. In this task Mr. Darrow exercised the utmost care and judgment. The answer "Yes" to the question: "Are you a member of the Klan?" automatically disqualified a candidate. After five days the final selection was made and the trial began.

According to the state's reconstruction of the case, Henry Sweet was kneeling at a second-story window when he fired the shot which snuffed out the life of Leon Breiner. Again policemen and eye-witnesses for the defense testified that a mob of at least five thousand had formed. These preliminaries over, Mr. Darrow launched into a recital of the facts of the case. He revealed that Dr. Sweet was helping Henry to secure an education. Stating that Henry was only doing his duty by helping to defend his brother's home against trespassers, he said that if a man could be convicted for

(*Continued on page 285*)

*This is the class of 1935 from the Louisville (Ky.) Municipal College for Negroes. These are the first graduates who have done all of their college work in this institution. The Louisville institution is the only four-year accredited liberal arts college for Negroes supported by municipal tax funds*

# An American Good Samaritan

***By R. C. Griffith***

***Pastor Edgefield Methodist Episcopal Church, Edgefield, S. C.***

A CERTAIN Congressman went down from Washington to his native Southland, and on the way he met a drunken driver. The night was too dark and the man was too drunk to know that he owed his right to get drunk to the Congressman's vote, so he side-swiped his benefactor's chariot, threw him in the ditch, broke his legs, and otherwise mistreated and abused him, and left him almost dead. Nor did he stop to lend him aid or comfort, but speeded away quickly into the night. And in his agony the poor Congressman begged for a drop of water, but there was no answer though several headlights flashed by in the dark.

A rich man passed at a terrific rate, but he was unaware that it was the Congressman, and his time was very valuable. A strike had broken out among the starving poor of his mill and he needed the militia to break it.

A fellow-politician passed by and saw the wreck, but his engine roared too loudly to hear the voice beneath it. Congress was about to pass a law to curb lynching and he must hurry home to stir up the voters against it. So unthinkable, this Federal meddling with the rights of a sovereign state!

And after that, a poor black man rattled down the same road in his old Model T Ford. He, too, saw the wreck, and not so pressed by important business, he stopped to see. He placed his back to the ruined chariot, and, with superhuman strength, rescued the Congressman. He carried him to his old dilapidated vehicle—and even coaxed her up to forty—in a frantic effort to reach the hospital. He carried him on his own strong back to a room full of doctors and nurses. He hurried away into the night without giving his name. The Congressman was saved, and both he and his fellow-whites were sentimental for a day about the unknown black man who had acted a hero's part.

Time passed swifty, and the Congressman was canvalescing. On another dark night a black man was being hunted, accused of a dastardly crime. Though no one knew the culprit, a dozen respectable blacks were whipped and put through the third degree. One was finally identified by a hysterical woman, promptly taken from an indifferent sheriff, tortured, and lynched. Next day the Coroner's jury pronounced the usual verdict, "by parties unknown."

And it was known in the town that the poor black man had twice saved his white man's town from fire at the risk of his own life. It was known that his past was respectable and honest. But it was not known that he had saved the life of the Congressman. Had it been known, the result would have not been different.

Intervening weeks produced evidence of the poor black man's innocence. But white honor had been satisfied, and the real culprit was never caught. And some questioned that a black man had ever committed the crime. However, a few sympathetic whites tried to help and console his family of destitute and fatherless children.

But all that did not prevent the Congressman's going to Washington in a wheel chair to help smash the anti-lynch law. While there he also voted against a law to limit and control child labor, and against another to allow newspapers to publish the names of drunken drivers. And furthermore, in his home state, he was rated as a wise man, a statesman, and a CHRISTIAN!

*MRS. EUNICE H. CARTER*

*Mrs. Carter has been appointed as one of the lawyers on the staff of Thomas E. Dewey who is directing a two-year investigation into crime and racketeering in the city of New York. So far Mrs. Carter is the only colored appointee*

**EXTRA COPIES**

A few extra copies of the August educational number with pictures of and information about 1935 graduates remain. They may be secured at 15c each. Address The Crisis, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

# Juanita E. Jackson to Join N. A. A. C. P. National Staff

Miss Juanita Elizabeth Jackson, of Baltimore, Md. (see cover) will join the national office staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, September 15. Her duties will include field work, especially among the youth divisions and junior branches, and with church groups, both young people and adults.

Miss Jackson, despite her youth, has been active in national movements among young people for the past five years. She was born in Hot Springs, Ark., but grew up and was educated in the public schools of Baltimore. She was graduated from the Frederick Douglass high school there in 1927. She attended Morgan college, but received her B.S. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1931. She taught in the Baltimore schools and returned to the University of Pennsylvania last year and secured her M.A. degree in sociology in June, 1935.

For three summers she travelled extensively through the South, Middle West and Far West for the Methodist Episcopal church. She is vice president of the National Council of Youth of the M. E. church, an organization composed of 18,000 Methodist youth groups. Perhaps Miss Jackson is best known as the founder and president of the City-Wide Young People's Forum of Baltimore, which holds meetings throughout the winter, regularly attracting audiences of 1,500 to 2,000 persons. Miss Jackson is a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, of the American Sociological society, the women's auxiliary of the Baltimore Urban League, and the executive committee of the Baltimore N.A.A.C.P. She was secretary of the interracial commission at the University of Pennsylvania and a member there of the Y. W. C. A. cabinet. In July of this year she was a scholarship student at the Institute of Race Relations at Swarthmore college. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keiffer A. Jackson, 1216 Druid Hill avenue, Baltimore.

## More About Graduates

There were thirty-six Negro students enrolled at Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois. Mrs. Mildred Bryant-Jones and Helen K. Perry received their M. A., Lucius Sylvester Davis received his A.B. and Elyseo J. Taylor, Archie Wilson Mills and Poindexter A. Orr received their LL.B. Ulysses S. Keys of the School of Law is mentioned for his special achievement. He was on the Loyola News Staff and Brandeis Competition.

# Editorials

### News Items

UP to August 5 there were twelve lynchings in America this year. One victim was white. Mississippi leads, as usual, with seven of the twelve. A North Carolina victim was a crazy man, hung in broad daylight by an unmasked mob of twenty-five men, no one of which the sheriff was able to recognize. A Florida grand jury brought in the usual verdict of death "at the hands of parties unknown." From June 22 to August 4 the lynchings proceeded at the rate of one every six-and-a-half days. Senator King of Utah proposed in the United States senate that this country consider severing diplomatic relations with Germany because of the barbarous treatment accorded Jews and Catholics by the Hitler government.

### An Important Investigation

THE committee appointed by the American Federation of Labor to investigate existing discrimination against Negro workers by local, national and international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. is engaged upon important business. Its findings will not reveal anything informed Negroes have not known only too well. The significance lies in the discovery and official recording of the facts by an authorized A. F. of L. committee. It is to be hoped that the executive council of the A. F. of L. will direct its committee to hold regional hearings in selected cities with large Negro industrial populations, otherwise the full story will not come out. The first hearing in Washington merely gave the informed leaders a chance to put data into the record. Give the workers who cannot afford to go to Washington a chance to round out the picture.

If there is ever to be an effective labor movement in this country the bars erected by organized labor against the millions of Negro toilers must come down. The A. F. of L. is simply exhibiting a little belated self-interest in this probe, for if it does not do something about the situation, what with other factors arising, its days will be numbered.

### Stay Out of Nazi Olympics

THE CRISIS joins other publications in opposition to American athletes taking part in the Olympic games in 1936 in Berlin. Upon the grounds of poor sportsmanship and discrimination, America, of course, cannot raise a very sincere howl, for she has given the Negro athlete in this country copious doses of both.

If memory does not fail THE CRISIS, there was talk of the poor treatment of Tolan, Metcalfe and other colored athletes at the 1932 Olympic games in sunny California, which at last reports was not in Germany. This, too, while the pair of Negro runners was carrying the Stars and Stripes to victory. Just two months ago when Jesse Owens did lone battle against the whole University of Southern California team, winning four first places out of four starts, a hotel refused to allow him a room in which to stay. Then there is Weir of New York, barred from tennis; Ward of Michigan, barred from the Georgia Tech game on his own campus; all Negroes kept out of organized big league baseball; no Negroes in amateur or professional golf or tennis. The complete list would be a long one.

It is fair to the A.A.U. to say that it has refused to hold its national track meets and boxing tournaments in sections of the country where Negroes would not be allowed to compete. But the A.A.U. will not admit Negroes to regional competitions in sections where the color line is drawn. Hence, no Negro amateurs come out of the South.

We do believe, however, that the American Olympic committee ought to withdraw our team from the Berlin Olympics because the games are being held in a country whose government is founded officially upon suppression of religious, political and social liberty, and upon terror and brutality. We ought not contribute anything, either in money or prestige, to such a government. Keep American athletes at home in 1936. In the meantime, if we just have to work up a lather over discrimination in sports, let us address ourselves to the color line in our own backyard.

### Nazis, Negroes, Jews and Catholics

NO colored American can read the news which comes out of Hitler's Germany without profound and poignant sympathy for the Jews and Catholics under the heel of Europe's mad man. The tales of humiliation, terror and cruelty have a familiar ring to us. We know all about being driven off the streets, having our women kicked and beaten, being barred from public places, being at the mercy of hoodlums and bloodthirsty mobs, having "scientists" prove us something less than human, being restricted in employment and residence, having separate schools set up for us, having our youth put on a quota basis in colleges and universities, and hearing and reading violent tirades against our race.

In this country some great-hearted Jews, rich and poor, have been true friends of the Negro; others have too readily adopted the American pattern of insult, exploitation and oppression. The same has been true of the Catholics. No one as much a victim of unreasoning bigotry as the American Negro would wish such a fate on any people anywhere for any purpose; but out of Germany can come a lesson for us here: all who believe in liberty and opportunity for all must unite to fight the spread of Hitlerism, the most terrible form of fascism. Jews and Catholics in this country have great power in many fields of endeavor. They need not "campaign" for Negroes, but there is still much in the way of opportunity and equality which they can extend. In return the Negro can offer a loyalty to common ideals unmatched by any people.

### Sad Spectacle

THERE does not seem anything more to be said about Ethiopia, Italy and the League of Nations. Practically every angle of the situation has been covered by writers in every corner of the world. The nations of the earth are being treated to a strange spectacle for the twentieth century: a strong, well-prepared nation boasting of its intentions to conquer a small, unprepared, virtually unarmed nation and sending armies and munitions thousands of miles from home over a period of nine months. With all this warning of a ruthless, imperialist war, the world remains impotent, its so-called peace machinery broken down, its public opinion helpless. Before its eyes (arrogantly laughing at its "condemnation"), a pompous imitation Caesar is hurling a vast war machine at a nation armed with spears, whose only crime is that it wishes to live unmolested under its own vine and fig-tree.

There may be many endings to Mussolini's adventure in Africa. There may be a world war. There may be uprisings all over Africa. There may be a revolution in Italy. There may be a quick lashing out by propaganda-goaded, economically-throttled Germany, with unpredictable results. There is a remote possibility that the wild fighting men of the Lion of Judah may, with the aid of their jungles, choke off the invaders. Altogether the situation presents a sad spectacle of "white" civilization. One mad man shouting of destiny and duty may be the bomb blowing it to hell.

# Harlem Politics

(*Continued from page 267*)

"The testimony of the paid investigators of the Mayor's Commission to investigate conditions in Harlem (such an investigation was ordered as result of the March 19 riot) revealed that a large number of nurses at this hospital died from tuberculosis caused by overwork and needless exposure to disease and germs while in a weakened condition. Overcrowding has reached a point where patients, at the point of death, are placed in hallways on boards and planks because there is not sufficient space for beds.

"Petty white supervisors and department heads maintain a policy of racial discrimination that forces out any Negro nurse or doctor who dares protest against conditions at this butcher shop. White leaders care nothing about this butcher shop because their wives and children will not be taken there if they are run down by an auto. They will be sent to some hospital where Negroes are not wanted."

### Seek Congressman

Aside from the unlimited opportunities for public service, Negro candidates aspire to the leadership so as to force the nomination of a Negro for Congress. Nomination by the Democratic party in New York County, where the Nineteenth and Twenty-first Assembly districts are located, is tantamount to election.

The district leader, in addition to having a voice in the nomination of the governor of New York, the mayor of New York City, and other state and municipal officials, sits with four other leaders to name the party's congressional nominee. If a leader is interested in his community he quickly finds that his signature on a sheet of Tammany stationery can work wonders in bringing to the community such benefits as unemployment relief, better-equipped hospitals, new and renovated schools, nurseries, playgrounds, low cost housing and a multitude of other things. The leader who can carry his district for the party is a tower of power, a veritable Prometheus unshackled.

Negroes began to crave some of this power in a serious manner in 1929, when Harlem, always regarded as a safe Republican stronghold, went Democratic by a big majority. The better to show what happened we present a rough anatomical layout of Negro Harlem, roughly divided into six assembly districts, with one foot in the Thirteenth, the other in the Seventeenth, the left arm in the Twentieth, the stomach and right arm in the Nineteenth, the chest in the Twenty-first, and the head in the Twenty-second Assembly district. The analysis of the vote showed that Negroes had come to be a majority of the Democratic party in the Nineteenth and Twenty-first Assembly districts overnight. At the present time it is conceivable that the Negro Democratic voting population in the Thirteenth Assembly will exceed the white voting population in five more years.

Today there are approximately 9,000 enrolled Negro Democrats in the Nineteenth to 1,000 whites, and 10,030 Negroes to 3,800 whites in the Twenty-first. Negro Democrats have the power of numbers to take over the leadership in these two districts whenever they choose, but there are still a large number of Negroes who believe implicitly the claims of the whites that a Negro would not be allowed to sit in the inner councils of Tammany Hall, and would be terribly "short-cut" on his patronage.

This year, however, what with Ethiopia, the Scottsboro boys and other topics, the skeptical Negro Democrats are beginning to change their minds. But no one will know how much until the close of the polls on primary day.

# Mexico

(*Continued from page 267*)

### Better than Europe

It should not be too difficult to persuade some of us to leave off the trek to Europe for a while, long enough to explore the mysteries of the other Americas. Or must we wait for the very young Negroes, world-seekers of tomorrow, who will wander far and wide forcing their destiny into far-away places; there to be found at home in the language and culture, and at home in having come to the end of their quest for the "other soul." Happily, some with only a few years of age have begun already with books of travel, and international periodicals cleverly written to allure their childish wanderlust. Others whose privilege is too occasional to be considered a commonplace, receive the impetus through vicarious experiences in the foreign language classroom. These know the incommunicable fascination of being initiated into the language through the medium of one in whom the culture of the language has found a voice. Here—in the example of the excellent Professor Spratlin who directed my first studies in Spanish—the induction into Hispanic culture is made through contact with one who offers in his personal culture a unique scroll of the civilization.

This is looking forward to that future when one will no longer settle down to the toil of making new culture paths in American living, until he has first heard the teacups rattling in many different languages, and made himself a part of all the comparative life vouchsafed for him through travel.

Herein is a new path to self-discovery and to the state of invulnerableness in which one is sure of what he knows. Its security has been recently summarized in the bold and vigorous utterance of a young Mexican of today: "It is something to have found *my* relationship to the social and political evolution of the three Americas. Circumstances may not overcome this wisdom, for, I have within myself the germ of all reform!"

* * * * *

Mrs. Thurman was directed by the chief of the immigration department in Mexico City, (in Spanish)—Dirrecion General de Poblacion, Antonio Hidalgo, to advise all Negro tourists interested in a trip to Mexico to apply at the nearest consulate where permits should be granted at once without any difficulty. If there is difficulty,—communicate the trouble to the Mexican Ambassador in Washington, Castillo Najera, and send a copy of the correspondence to Antonio Hidalgo, Chief of Immigration. Orders have been issued to Washington that no difficulties were to be placed in the way of Negro tourists entering the country and that they were to enjoy the same facilities as anyone else.

# South Africa

(*Continued from page 266*)

is good enough for "the nigger." And thus in order to perpetuate "White supremacy" and maintain "White prestige," White South Africa disenfranchises Africans, the majority of the inhabitants of the country, consigns them to a position of perpetual inferiority, in their fatherland, subjects them to government by proclamation, perpetuates unheard of atrocities like the Pick Up raids when police simply assemble in all strategic points and arrest hundreds of innocent men and women; intensified police raids which are characterized by gross brutality towards women; injustice in the courts, evictions from farms, towns, locations and work; starvation; degradation, subserviency and insecurity—and calls that a Christian solution of the interracial question and the only method of upkeeping Western Civilization in Africa. All those require that an African should be declared an outlaw and an alien in his fatherland. He must not participate in its government because he is a pariah. When the Romans made a solitude they called it peace. What will South Africa call its policy of segregation?

# From the Press of the Nation

## Editorial of the Month

### A Disgrace to the South

**Richmond *Times Dispatch***

An astonishing verdict of acquittal has just been reached by the North Carolina court which tried several former convict camp officials, who had in their custody two Negro prisoners whose feet had to be amputated. These officials were cleared of all blame in the matter, the jury having apparently believed the argument of the defense that it was the fault of the convicts themselves that they lost their feet.

The two prisoners were serving short terms. For alleged insubordination they were "hung up" in solitary confinement in dark cells for nine days from eight to ten hours daily, handcuffed to the bars of the cells with their feet shackled to the floor. Although the thermometer went down to 11 degrees above zero for a portion of the time, and it was always unusually cold, there was no heat, except from a dilapidated stove which went out frequently.

Owing to the shackles on their feet, those members swelled, and the men had to take their shoes off and stand unshod on the cold concrete floor. In order to keep the shackles from pressing too hard on their swelling feet, the men placed strips of cloth under the metal. Soon the swelling was such that the cloth was forced deeply into the flesh.

After being subjected to this torture—there is no other word for it—for nine days, the men were given solitary confinement for three more days, without being "hung up." Subsequently in the prison camp, their feet grew steadily worse. The gangrene was diagnosed as "erysipelas," and salve was rubbed on the rotting flesh. Finally it became clear that the feet of both men had to be amputated, to save their lives, and the operation was performed in the prison hospital at Raleigh.

That is the undisputed record of what happened. Yet the court quashed the indictment charging "feloniously torturing and maiming" and dismissed all charges against two of the five defendants. The other three were brought to trial on a charge of "neglect of duty," a misdemeanor, and assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. Since it was clear to everybody that no such assault had been committed, the only charge for all practical purposes, was the misdemeanor, and the prison camp officials were not even convicted of that.

Naturally there was an outburst of indignation in North Carolina over this denouement. A columnist calls it "shameful, disgraceful, sickening." A leading editor declares that the verdict "fails miserably to satisfy the most elemental promptings of a decency which is outraged when two human beings utterly within the power of the State are so far neglected that their feet freeze or rot within eyesight and calling distance of adequate medical attention."

Certainly it seems to us that such a verdict is nothing short of a travesty upon justice. About 10 days ago, a legislative investigating committee in Georgia reported the conditions in one of the convict camps in that State even more dreadful than Robert E. Burns said they were in his description of Georgia chain gangs. Now comes a North Carolina court with refusal to punish any one for the loss of the feet of two prisoners, although the men were subjected to terrible torture over a period of nine days. Such things as these are a disgrace to the South.

Negroes have won their fight for the appointment of race physicians and chaplains in CCC Camps. By direction of President Roosevelt this recognition will be accorded them, with Secretary of War voicing complete agreement. Dr. Emmett J. Scott, secretary of Howard University, who was special assistant to the Secretary of War during the World War, played a prominent part in convincing high officials at Washington that a more liberal and equitable policy should be adopted. He discussed the subject twice with President Roosevelt and also conferred with Secretary of War Dern, presenting the Negro viewpoint. . . .—New York *Age.*

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All the compromises suggested by England and France for settling the impending Ethiopian-Italian war take something from Ethiopia and give it to Italy.

In other words, Italy must be paid to behave herself. It hasn't yet occurred to anybody, except Haile Selassie, emperor of Ethiopia, that he owes Italy nothing and Italy cannot get more than that without war.—*Afro-American.*

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Mankind is not yet very far removed from the primitive state when force and fear ruled the jungle.

Anger and hate, jealousy, revenge, stir the deepest passions, and the savage reveals itself in cruel, atrocious acts.

Such has been the attitude of Germany towards Jews and Catholics in her dominions. Stories of oppression and suppression have repeatedly come to the outside world, and they are having their very proper repercussion. . . .—*Star of Zion.*

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Most Americans now busy damning Germany, have forgotten that the old motto of this country was: "The only good Indian is a dead Indian," and that the grave has made most of them good.—Cincinnati *Union.*

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Whether the Harlem riot was justifiable in the light of what has been unearthed by this commission, we are in no position to say. We do know, however, that the riot served to focus a good bit of needed attention on the plight of the New York Negro and Negroes in general. The investigations of the commission have likewise brought to light a number of the nefarious practices of the New York police department in regard to people of color.—Savannah *Journal.*

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To all the talk which we heard during the past week about the Negro's rights and the things from which the Negro suffers, on account of his race and color, to our minds, there is but ONE ANSWER, and that is the dollar sign ($). Our battles cannot be fought and successfully won by a lot of talk and resolutions. It takes money to fight the many forms of discrimination which we find at every turn we make toward self advancement.—St. Louis *Argus.*

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Under the social security bill the old age pension is attached. Many persons have hailed its enactment with much satisfaction, feeling that in old age the dire wants of life may be assuaged. This feeling is especially true as to our people. At least ninety-five per cent of them will be doomed to great disappointment, because the enactment will be a farce as concerning them. The bulk of our people are employed in menial positions, as servants in the homes and especially farm laborers. This class is restricted from the benefits of the old age law.—Savannah *Tribune.*

# An Answer to "Upon This Rock"

## By Samuel G. Stevens

***Considerable discussion was aroused by the article "Upon This Rock," by J. Edward Arbor in the April CRISIS. This answer is from a young minister in Richmond, Va.***

"UPON THIS ROCK" is the caption of an article which appears in the April CRISIS by Edward J. Arbor. His main thesis is that Negro militancy in the South is held firmly in check by the fundamentalists. This is not the first time that this thesis has been set forth, although it seems that Mr. Arbor is not aware of this fact. There are some things in the article with which I must agree, but it seems to me that his main thesis is fallacious. He seems to be right in principle but wrong in application.

Let us agree with Mr. Arbor that Negro militancy in the South is held firmly in check. But, Mr. Arbor is creating a "bogyman" for himself if he thinks that the Negro church is doing the checking. Any person who thinks along this line is magnifying the influence of the church, and the preacher, upon the Negro. Mr. Arbor would have us believe that the southern Negro is so religious, and that he has imbibed the pacificism of the "great exemplar" to such an extent, that he is always willing to turn the other side of his face to be smitten. I am wondering did it ever occur to Mr. Arbor that these Negroes never show this spirit of non-violence toward other Negroes. If one Negro should happen to smite another upon the cheek, the Negro who is smitten never stops to consider the teachings of his Lord, but immediately begins to decapitate his fellowman with a six inch razor, or to blow his brains out with a .38 calibre revolver. But, if that same Negro is smitten by a white man we know that nine times out of ten he will bow his head in humble submission, and trembling, flee with all swiftness, revolver and all. Mr. Arbor would have us to believe that it is the Negro's religion that causes him to act in this manner. Furthermore, I would like to know why it is that this same religion doesn't make brothers and sisters more peaceful in church? "Amen-sisters" will sometimes sail at each other with all the ferociousness of young wild cats, and this, right in the church edifice, but they will take almost anything from their white mistresses. I remember once in a sawmill camp in Georgia the Negro hands had just received their weekly pay, and they were celebrating by making all kinds of noise, cursing and gambling. It happened that the white "boss" got tired of the noise, came over to the crowd and gave one yell to "shut up." He was the only white man for miles around, but every Negro in that crowd of over one hundred hushed so suddenly that the silence became oppressive. Mr. Arbor would have us believe that these "rough-neck" sawmill men went back and got their religion and, being true to its precepts, became silent and submissive.

Mr. Arbor would have us believe that the church has outlived its days of usefulness. And that it was useful in the time of slavery only to "alleviate the mental torture of the slaves," and to give the delusions of immortality for he states, the slave "could hope for nothing better than death." If Mr. Arbor would follow his reasoning to its logical conclusion, it would naturally lead him to see that the church could be used for that same purpose today. But, I would like to know who told Mr. Arbor that the Negro in slavery could hope for nothing better than death? This statement isn't true. The Negro in slavery could hope for and did hope for more than death, they hoped to live to be free.

I think that Mr. Arbor does the ante-bellum preacher an injustice when he implies that all that he preached was to look forward toward reaching heaven after death. The ante-bellum preacher hoped for the day when his people would be free to enjoy this world before death. The Old Testament was the book from which most of their sermons were taken and there is little in this book to make a people satisfied and pacifistic. One of the greatest insurrections of all times was led by Nat Turner, a "fundamentalist" preacher. The attitude of the ante-bellum Negro preacher is well set forth in the poem by Paul L. Dunbar entitled "An Ante-bellum Sermon."

Mr. Arbor laments the fact that the majority of the colleges in the southland are headed by preachers. Whose fault is this? Preachers started most of the schools, consequently they became the head of them. In the course of time, however, men trained specifically for educational work will supplant the "preacher-heads."

Mr. Arbor can find no intellectual leader of the Negro race who is at the same time a clergyman. Maybe he doesn't call a person intellectual unless he thinks according to his pattern. He further states that "One can count upon the fingers of one hand, the few really enlightened men who hold down pulpits below the line of Jim-Crowism." I know that Mr. Arbor is here using figurative language, he could hardly believe his statement to be factual. But even in figurative language, it would be good if he wouldn't use such hyperboles.

The sermon from which Mr. Arbor quotes is the exception and not the general case. I think you will have to search diligently to find preachers who do not admire THE CRISIS and *Opportunity* magazines, as well as the great work being done by the N.A.A.C.P.

If Mr. Arbor would take up the profession of preaching for awhile, and note the vacant pews, the lack of response to his well-planned and worked out sermons, probably he wouldn't be so afraid of this "bogyman." He says that the "black intelligentsia" attend church regularly, and that the Negro puts a great deal of vigor into worshipping the Lord. Let us hope that the Lord thinks with Mr. Arbor. I must confess I can't.

Faith may be a barren rock, yet it is none the less a solid rock upon which we can build. We need faith in God, faith in our own possibilities, faith in our own Negro leaders and businesses, faith to believe that the fight that we are making will lead us into the promised land. Let us not lose faith, but with this faith let us couple work, for "faith without work is dead."

### CHILDREN'S NUMBER

The November issue of THE CRISIS this year, rather than the October number, will contain the annual section devoted to children. THE CRISIS invites its readers to send photographs of youngsters for publication.

THE CRISIS will be glad to receive also, articles, essays and verses by or about children. We welcome fiction at all times.

Material for this children's section must be in THE CRISIS office October 1. We do not guarantee to return photographs unless postage is enclosed.

# Benefit Directed by Muse Nets $1,147 for N.A.A.C.P.

UNDER the leadership of Clarence Muse, Los Angeles this week sent more money to the support of the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill than any other major metropolis in America. The clear sum of $1,147.76, without any deductions for expenses or overhead of any kind, was air-mailed to Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P., the very morning following the mammoth Benefit, held at the Lincoln Theatre on Central Avenue in Los Angeles.

Two great policies inaugurated for the first time anywhere, in the history of organization benefits, by Clarence Muse, are directly responsible for this splendid showing. In assuming leadership of the show, Muse definitely decreed it was for all classes of Negroes and not just for members of the local N.A.A.C.P. alone, also that everything be absolutely donated free—no expenses for anything.

The results were that Jules Wolf donated the theatre, Fanchon and Marco the scenery, Warner Brothers the klieg lights, the Golden State Insurance Company, Gray's Dairy Farms and Conner and Johnson Funeral Home the programs and tickets, the Benton Drug Store a motorcycle fleet to deliver tickets, and signs, parking space, secretarial services, engraving and photographic services, public address systems, all were donated free of charge.

Muse placed officials from prominent Negro fraternal, charitable, and social organizations on the various committees preparing for this mammoth benefit. He got all the newspapers in town—seven of them—to donate front page space, banners and headlines for three weeks prior to the Benefit—and on top of it, amiably asked them to buy tickets to the show, at $2.00 each, which they did!

Thomas Griffith, president of the Los Angeles N.A.A.C.P., worked in harmony with Muse as did Earl Dancer, who with Jack Benny, Fred Keating, Alan Mowbray, James Gleason and Ted Healy, white stars of the screen, were masters of ceremony at the benefit.

This brings us to the glittering, scintillating and shining stars of stage, screen and radio who were present in person to honor Muse and to show their interest in the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill. They came in smart ermine and evening dress and some even in sports attire, just as Hollywoodians always attend such affairs—sometimes formally and sometimes very informally indeed.

Fred Keating, who featured in "The Captain Hates the Sea" at Columbia, came and did a great master of ceremonies, performing his inimitable disappearing canary cage trick. This brought down the house. Alan Mowbray, Noel Madison, Wallace Beery, Ted Healy, Warren William, Jimmy Gleason, Robert Armstrong and many more came, appeared, performed and were highly popular with the crowd, being much applauded.

As for colored artists—every big cabaret show and sepia star in California were present. The entire Clubs Alabam and Araby shows were on hand en masse, Frank Sebastian personally brought his Cotton Club ensembles down, featuring Valaida Snow and Ananias Berry, who created a sensation. Lionel Hampton and his orchestra played rhythmic melodies, the Three Harlem Steppers danced, Betty Treadville and Lillian Randolph sang, to great applause.

The Three Brownies were a great success, the Four Chords were swell and Edward Bailey and his Negro Choir, Frieda Shaw and her Ethiopian Chorus, Ben Carter and his Plantation Boys were sensational aggregations of harmony singers. Otis and Leon Rene were lauded for their original song "Dusty Road."

David Broekman, musical maestro of KHJ brought a whole aggregation of radio stars from this station down there, KFWB transported a great showing of stars of the ether, and KFI, KMTR, KNX and other Hollywood and Los Angeles stations were represented in the melange of great talent which poured out its genius for the entertainment of the audience.

Three splendid white artists who scored heavily were Marcia Norman and Bunola Kay, sopranos of great range and warmth of voice, and Boris Levitsky, Russian concert violinist, who played the "Ave Maria" and Schubert's "Serenade" with much poignancy and beauty. Tillie Barch, a fine pianist, worked like a trojan accompanying the artists.

The famous Nicholas Brothers, playing at the Ambassador Hotel, made three trips to the Lincoln in between their own shows, but so many performers were lined up, these famous dancers got no chance to appear. Clarence Muse read telegrams from Bill Robinson, cabling substantial donation to the cause, from Jimmy Cagney, Pat O'Brien, Will Rogers, Mae West and Mayor Frank L. Shaw, who were out of town or busy so they couldn't get to the Benefit.

The dailies were splendid in their cooperation, doing a marvelous publicity job for this benefit. Clarence Muse's personal staff—Thomas Griffith, Jr., Earl Dancer, Floyd C. Covington, L. G. Robinson, Dick Abrams, Dr. Albert Johnson, Zella M. Taylor, Mabel Gray, Frank Sebastian, Mr. Pleasure, Paul Williams and Baxter Scruggs — all worked hard for this benefit and deserve a great deal of credit.

Muse, under whose supervision the entire benefit was conducted, hopes that this show which raised so much clear money for the N.A.A.C.P. will set a happy precedent for the future in other cities and that much money will be raised for the Costigan-Wagner anti-lynching bill and for all other worthy causes, without "de ducks" getting the lion's share. This is once that Los Angeles has set the pace!

## The Lion of Judah

### (Ras Tafari—King of Abyssinia)

*By* JOHN HENRY OWENS

Serene and poised, in kingly robes he stands,
Facing his feudal lords;
Who swear allegiance to their ancient lands,
With hands upon their swords.

No foreign tyrant shall usurp his place,
Nor overrun his state;
He sallies forth, a mighty host to face—
Whatever be his fate.

His lineage goes back to the ancient past,
Unbroken through the years;
He will not flinch before this host so vast,—
His warriors have no fears.

His faith in God, and triumph of the right,
Sustains his fighting arm;
He has the consciousness that right is might:—
This is his sacred charm.

Before his neck shall bend to tyrant's yoke,
He swears to Judah's God,
His royal blood, with that of peasant folk,
Shall water Ethiop's sod.

**EXTRA COPIES**

A few extra copies of the August educational number with pictures of and information about 1935 graduates remain. They may be secured at 15c each. Address THE CRISIS, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

# *Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront*

### Aid Housing Plan

Dr. E. W. Taggart, president of the Birmingham, Ala., branch is aiding the committee in his city which secured a $2,250,000 federal loan for a Negro housing project to get title to the land so that the work can get under way. Assisting Dr. Taggart is Oscar Adams, an attorney. If the project goes forward, it will mean 575,000 hours of skilled labor, 127,000 hours of semi-skilled labor and 400,000 hours of common labor, with a considerable portion of the common and semi-skilled work going to Negro mechanics and laborers.

### California Branches Meet

The second annual conference of the Northern California Council of N.A.A.C.P. branches was held in San Mateo, July 18. The afternoon session was addressed by Mrs. Mabel Richardson and was devoted largely to consideration of the work for junior branches. It proposed that the young people take an active part in literary programs, debates and open forums as well as in the regular work of the association. Barney Williams and Miss Vera Collier were confirmed as officials of the junior council.

The principal speaker at the evening session was Mrs. Rachel Davis DuBois of New York, member of the national board of directors who was in California as a member of the faculty of the University of Southern California summer school. Mrs. DuBois spoke on interracial relations. George Johnson, delegate to the St. Louis conference, gave a report on the sessions and outlined the plan and program of the association. Mr. Johnson was elected president of the Northern California Council; Mrs. Emma Collins, first vice-president; U. S. Griggs, second vice-president; the Reverend W. E. Smith, third vice-president; and Sidney L. Staton, secretary-treasurer. The next council of branches meeting will be held in Oakland in October.

### Detroit Campaign

A membership campaign conducted by the Detroit branch with the aid of Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, regional field secretary, in June just prior to the annual conference in St. Louis, resulted in a total of $1,448.50 being raised.

Read the Crisis

## Branch News

*Most of the branches of the Association suspend activities for the summer months, but with the coming of September,* The Crisis *urges them to send in their news regularly and pledges to give the utmost publicity to the fall and winter work of the branches.*

The **Egg Harbor, N. J.,** branch held an old fashioned barbecue and picnic August 3. Mrs. Jenny Horne is president and S. D. Moss, secretary.

The **Topeka, Kan.,** branch held a report meeting on the annual conference Sunday, July 7 with Mrs. Charles W. French as the speaker.

Through the efforts of the **Council Bluffs, Ia.,** branch in its direct request to Mayor Hugh P. Finerty, discrimination signs were removed from four places namely: Charley's Sandwich Shop, Klotz's Tavern, Joe's Hamburger, and Martin's Central Billiard.

The **Winston-Salem, N. C.,** branch held a meeting July 7 for the purpose of electing officers. Dr. H. A. Davidson was chairman of the membership committee. Charles A. McClain of Durham was the principal speaker at the branch meeting on July 18.

The **Little Rock, Ark.,** branch held its monthly meeting July 7.

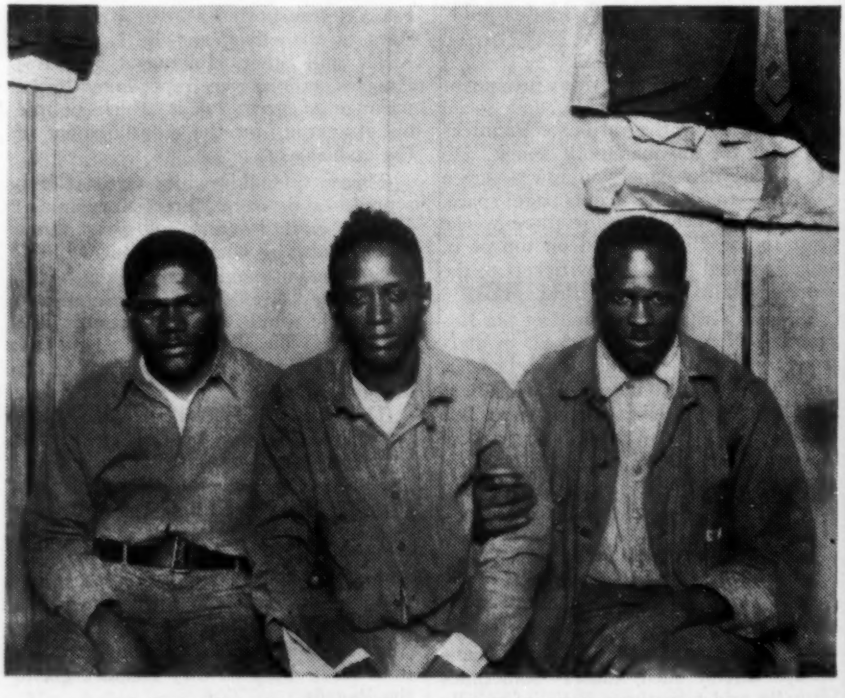
James E. Allen, president of the **New York, N. Y.,** branch has protested to the New York *Sun* over an editorial published by that paper which stated that lynchings would be wiped out if all criminals were tried within ninety days. Mr. Allen pointed out that in most cases of lynching, the victims were not given two days to wait for a trial, to say nothing of ninety and, therefore, that the contention for such trials had nothing to do with the prevalence of lynching.

The **Akron, O.,** branch gave a carnival of Negro music on July 4 at Perkins Park.

The **New Castle, Pa.,** branch held its regular meeting July 12. One of the items of the program was a musical selection by the Robinson quartet.

The **Newport, R. I.,** branch held a benefit bingo party July 10. The committee included James Burney, chairman; Raymond Chase, Mrs. Beverley Tinsley, Mrs. Richard King, Mrs. James Bailey, Mrs. George Brogden, Mrs. Theodore Belcher, Mrs. Buney, Mrs. Lucy Hurley, Mrs. Charles Jackson, Mrs. Alice Benson and LeRoy Williams, president.

The **Philadelphia, Pa.,** branch has had a number of interesting speakers at its regular monthly meetings during the past few months. At the May meeting, Harry A. Moul, engineer of the Philadelphia Housing Association, spoke on "Is Negro Housing a Good Investment?" Mr. Moul pointed out that better housing certainly was a good investment both financially and in the way of increasing the general well being of the community. Dr. J. Max Barber, founder and president of the



HENRY SHIELDS, YANK ELLINGTON AND ED. BROWN

*These three men accused of murder in Kemper Co., Miss., and subjected to brutal torture, will have a hearing before the United States Supreme Court in October. One of the judges of the Mississippi Supreme Court characterized the case as "Worse than the Scottsboro Case." The N.A.A.C.P. is furnishing most of the money for the appeal*

John Brown Memorial Association, was the principal speaker at the June meeting and told of the work of that association which culminated in the erection and the unveiling of the monument to John Brown, the great emancipator, at his grave in Lake Placid, New York, this spring. Dr. Barber mentioned that the John Brown Memorial Association owed its existence to the action of the Philadelphia branch in sending Dr. T. S. Burwell and himself as the first pilgrims to Lake Placid in 1922. Miss Pauline Young, librarian of the Howard high school, Wilmington, Del., reviewed James Weldon Johnson's book, "Negro Americans, What Now?" at the July meeting. The Philadelphia branch was one of the organizations participating in a pilgrimage to Lancaster, Pa., on August 10, to the grave of Thaddeus Stevens, famous abolitionist and father of the public school system in Pennsylvania.

The junior **Media, Pa.,** branch gave a reception for high school graduates July 2. The program was in charge of Mrs. Theresa Harris, Mrs. Mary Austin, and Mrs. Magnolia Butler. The members of the committee were Miss Thelma Tallaferro, president of the junior branch; Mrs. Theodosia King Johnson, chairman of the advisory board; Robert Fields, president of the senior branch. Mrs. Isabella King was mistress of ceremonies. The guests of honor were May Batipps, Isabelle Mason, Elizabeth Carter, Ruth Ryder, Burton Mayo, Ellsworth Smith, William Polk, Jr. Miss Madaline Moffett, Prof. Hubert E. Carter and Marford Freeman were among those present.

Prompt action on the part of the **Chicago, Ill.,** branch saved Mrs. Walter Bell from extradition to Greenville, Miss. Cooperation of the State's Attorney's office and Gov. Horner made possible the refusal of the issuance of a warrant although Mrs. Bell was held in the County Jail on a fugitive warrant. The appeal of the Leander McCline and the decision won in this case and the successful defense of Clifford Jackson a year ago aided in this case. Mrs. Bell was wanted for forgery involving $13.50; the facts indicated that southern white people merely sought to have her returned to be forced to work for them at little or no wages, using the charge of forgery to force her into actual wage slavery. This is the third successful fight in the matter of extradition prosecuted by the Chicago branch since 1933.

Eugene J. Minor, president of the **Portland, Ore.,** branch has announced that there is little interest in enlisting for Ethiopia among the colored people of the northwest. On the other hand, the Reverend Arthur R. James of the **Wilmington, Dela.,** branch and the Reverend Horace White of the **Cleveland, O.,** branch are active in finding practical ways in which American Negroes can aid Ethiopia because of the keen interest in their respective communities.

The **New Orleans, La.,** branch, cooperating with the Colored Educational Alliance and other civic, religious and fraternal organizations has joined in a petition to the Orleans parish school board asking for a number of improvements in educational facilities for Negroes in New Orleans. Among the projects suggested were: additional grammar and high schools, more teachers to relieve the overworked present staff, playground space, trade school and kindergartens, even high schools, school nurses, truant officers and music supervisors. Joining in the petition were: The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Colored Educational Alliance, Methodist Brotherhood, Independent Order of Good Samaritans, Knights of Pythians; Douglass Life Insurance, First Street M. E. Church, First District Baptist Association, Louisiana Freedman Baptist Association.

The committee which presented the petition is as follows: James E. Gayle, P. P. Creuzot, M.D., Robert B. Hayes, J. S. Williams, the Reverend R. M. Davis, the Reverend H. H. Dunn, Mrs. Ida Thropay King and Henry E. Braden, Sr.

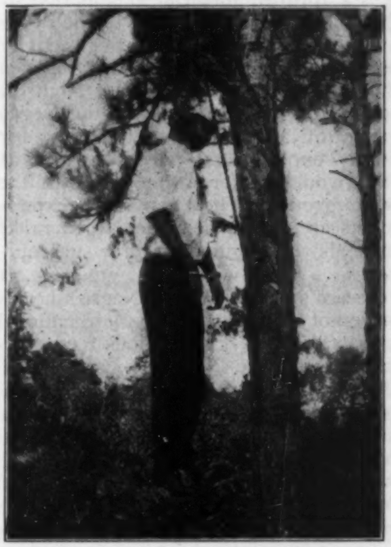
*MRS. ROY MORTON*

*One of three individual workers bringing in largest number of memberships, Detroit campaign*

*ROSE MARIE McLAURIN, SIOUX FALLS, S. D.*

*Winner Child Health Contest at the annual N.A.A.C.P. picnic. Her score was 99.3*

# My Country, 'Tis of Thee Sweet Land of Liberty—



**This is a picture of what happens in America—*and no other place on earth!* Here is the U. S. rope and faggot record to date:**

**Lynchings since January 1:**

**12**

●

**Lynchings during same period last year:**

**13**

●

**Total lynchings since 1882:**

**5,080**

●

**(Figures as of August 15)**

**You can help stamp out lynch law by joining the forces who are campaigning for the passage of a federal anti-lynching law by the U. S. congress. Write the N.A.A.C.P. for information: 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.**

# Negro Health

(*Continued from page 265*)

their annual budget, and it is regrettable to note, with the acquiescence of many deluded but well-intentioned Negro doctors of the particular community, in order to open more widely the pocketbooks of the subscribers, for salaries for white organization workers; in short, it is a form of financial exploitation of the colored sick by whites, to the detriment of the Negro, because their activity instills in the mind of the white citizen the fear of contracting disease from his colored neighbor; (2) to use the Negro group of a particular community for purely experimental purposes, such as they would prefer not to do with the white group. When new social experiments are to be tried, the Negro ranks little above the guinea pig for such purposes. This would be amusing if America's health and the Negro's health were not in jeopardy, but these national and local health organizations feed everlastingly on the Negroes' woes due to illness, and ride financially over all common precepts of decency, social justice and ordinary humanity in a most cold-blooded way, and have the brass to tell us that they are honestly interested in our welfare.

It should be clearly stated here that most of the social service workers have no inherent prejudice against Negroes because of color, I am convinced; and the reason the Negro is used in such unsatisfactory ways is because his social status is so low that he cannot resist their activities effectively, since they know but little attention is paid to his protests by the rest of the country. Most social service workers of large organizations talk softly, have the narrow social outlooks of their superiors whom they must please. This is not a question of color either, as many having to do with other racial groups among whites show themselves as small-souled people with a coldly superior attitude to persons in need of help. Miss Lillian Wald and the Henry Street Settlement Nursing Service is a brilliant exception—in this case Miss Wald as the head of the work exhibited greatness of spirit and soul, and this spirit permeates her entire organization. So we see the temper of an organization, in most instances, reflects the attitude and social consciousness of its leading character. The Negro is a major object of exploitation by social service organizations in the field of health due to the fact that the executive heads of these groups are short-sighted and have neither the mental acumen and social consciousness to see that if their work is to sound, they have to have sufficient courage to cast off old notions, get rid of their small racial prejudices, educate their white advisers and contributors to the necessity of handling Negro health problems in exactly the same way health problems of white racial groups are handled; and to stop racketeering at the expense of human life. When this is done, truly great will be their victory.

### *Foundations a Menace*

Let us now look at the activities of foundations as a factor in Negro health. In general, as I pointed out in a previous paper, certain foundations have been shown as attempting to control the practice of medicine in this country, although their programs have been repudiated by the organized profession. Their effect has been to strangle Negro medical schools with politics because of their weak financial condition.

They also have tried to make the Negro medical profession subservient to their aims and desires. One foundation in particular has been exceptionally busy as regards our health status and has made every effort to control our health program, medical schools and hospitals. That is the Julius Rosenwald Fund. As an aside I may say that in my opinion the Julius Rosenwald Fund has attempted to control every field of thought as it relates to the Negro problem.

The Manhattan Medical Society of New York some years ago criticized and exposed this type of extra-racial control in the field of health and hospitals. They showed that this particular foundation played a dominant part as regards health and hospitals as they relate to Negroes and, in my opinion, to their detriment. I will quote from an open letter sent to Mr. Edwin R. Embree, president of the Rosenwald Fund, one or two passages which touch on many of these points:

"High mortality and morbidity rates of Negroes—can be cut down among colored people in exactly the same way they are cut down among other racial groups.

"We object also to having the destiny of the Negro physician and the health of 12,000,000 colored people left in the hands of the Julius Rosenwald Fund. We feel that the Fund has essentially failed to establish the necessary groundwork for the sound advancement of the Negro physician and for the proper remedy in handling the question of Negro health. We view your program with grave concern and we believe that unless it is defeated the Negro doctor will occupy an inferior status. We feel that the Negro patient should have the free and unrestricted use of established hospitals and the Negro doctors should have equal opportunity for training in these institutions. We believe that the establishment of this principle of equality of opportunity for all regardless of race, in hospitals throughout the North, is not too much to hope for. This, however, will never come to pass if your program based as it is upon a false and vicious principle should prevail."

On the question of segregated hospitals in general, I can do no better than to quote Trevor Bowen in "Divine White Right:"

"It is, of course, a fact that many white physicians have never had occasion to treat a Negro patient; but it is also true that where Negroes are not admitted to practice in hospitals, and the urge for prospective hospital cases among Negroes to engage the services of a doctor who is not handicapped in securing the patient's admission to a hospital and in treating the patient when there, is obvious. In addition, Negro patients are themselves acutely conscious of many limitations placed upon the professional training and practices of Negro physicians.

"The claim sometimes made that Negroes prefer the professional services of whites may on occasion be true: hail to the whites who have earned the tribute! But in the light of the above conditions it would seem that, in the mass, whites trade unfairly on whiteness, that as a matter of cold fact they dictate the rules of the contest to their own professional and economic advantage.

### *Achievement Blocked*

"Even more important is the actual impairment of professional achievement among Negroes in the light of the known lag in Negro health. As long as race attitudes or any other factors place a distinction between Negroes and whites, the medical achievement and the health of members of the group will be interrelated. It is this relation which places rather a heavy responsibility upon the white medical fraternity in excluding Negro physicians from full participation in the advancement of the medical arts and sciences.

"The reply to this charge calls attention to an apparently accepted order of society in which segregation is a fact, not a theory: that white people will not be served by Negro physicians, and that the admission of professional colored personnel into hospitals where white patients are treated would cause confusion ultimately reacting unfavorably upon the patients. It is also stated that Negroes have their own medical schools which best meet the needs of a bi-racial system; that Negro physicians appear unfortunately to have natural limitations in regard to medical knowledge and practice, and that this underlies their various professional disabilities.

"The Negro's answer to these assertions is that the alleged unwillingness of

(*Continued on page* 284)

# Book Review

## DEEP DARK RIVER by Robert Rylee. Farrar and Rinehart, New York. $2.50.

Another white novelist has given us an interpretation of Negro life in the South. This time it is Robert Rylee whose first novel *Deep Dark River* was the July selection by the Book of the Month Club. Despite certain minor flaws of technique, the honor was merited by the young author, for the book shows a definite penetrative quality, it has a well developed theme to which has been added a new sociological interpretation, and it is well written.

The narrative concerns itself with Mose Southwick, a Negro, who worked in the gravel pit of Louisiana, but who had a yearning to be a minister. When the gravel pit closed down, he journeyed to Clarksville, Mississippi, where his brother, Allen, got him a job as a sharecropper on the Rutherford plantation. Losing an active interest in life that to him was only a complete consummation of his degeneracy, old man Rutherford had turned the management of his farm over to his two sons, Orvil and Lonnie, and Birney, an unprincipled scoundrel. Stripped of all instincts of humanity, these three men used the farm only as a subterfuge to hide their bootlegging activities. When Mose discovered Birney had become too intimate with his wife while he was absent, he remonstrated with the manager and warned him not to be seen in his place again. The audacity of Mose surprised the white man and he bode his time to obtain revenge. He finally hired a Negro on the place who was instructed to agitate a quarrel with Mose and then shoot him. Willie Stubbs tried to carry out instructions, but when Mose saw he was about to be shot, he shot first in self-defense. From the wound Willie died and Mose was dragged into court charged with murder. Defended by Mary Winston, a young white lawyer, who did everything within her power to save him, Mose was a victim of a frameup charge planned by Birney, Orville, and Lonnie whose bestiality made them murder their own father rather than have him testify for Mose. Found guilty by the jury, he was sentenced for life. Throughout the whole proceedings Mose retained a philosophical attitude toward life, and even when Mary visited him at the convict farm, he was more interested in the fact that he had a clear conscience than in her attempt to obtain a pardon from the governor.

To a large degree the extent of a novelist's ability is determined by his success at characterization. Rylee does not present a galaxy of living personalities. Rather he centers all his powers in the developing of one figure, that of Mose Southwick. Not only does he achieve success with the representation of the physical appearance of the man, "tall and black with shoulders rounded and head drooped forward," but he shows a subjective penetration that reveals the strength and frailties of the hero who remains in memory as a human individual whose intensity of experiences we are able to share because of the reality of the presentation.

Mose cannot understand the inscrutable mysteries of life. He knows that he is only a part of a great mysterious scheme to which philosophically he tries to adjust his life. He errs frequently, but from each mistake knowledge is gained that builds within him a fortitude necessary for the ordeals to which he is subjected. When the other Negroes on the plantation warn Mose that Willie Stubbs has been put there purposely to injure him, he refuses to flee as they suggest. Instead, what they "told him only made him the more determined to remain. The more the odds piled up against him the more strength he poured into the breach in his own attack on life. Thus throughout the characterization of Mose runs a simple, personal philosophy that endows him with a sort of mystical, intuitive outlook on life that points out a way when all else is valueless.

Although the characterization of Mary Winston is not as sturdily etched as that of Mose, she contributes the motivating personality through whom the story reaches its culmination. Instead of being endowed with the qualities that make Mose alive, she is rather the symbol of a newer South where some of its white members have learned the lessons of justice, tolerance, and understanding of mankind. As a modern Portia she defends Mose with all the ingenuity of her technical skill. Although not successful her spirit of justice gives enlightenment to the degenerate southern community in which she lived.

Artistically the book is put together well. In descriptive scenes the author gains his effect not only through his creation of concrete images but through the economy of his expression. Throughout the work he is able to portray a mood that at times takes on a brooding quality and again a sense of complete spiritual and physical decay, so characteristic of the South. Seldom does the writer inject himself into the story. His personal philosophy is well entwined with the general narrative and in the development of his characters. The biggest flaw in structure occurs after Mose has committed the murder. The author has him flee from Clarksville in order to escape prosecution. He wanders as far North as Illinois only to retrace his steps to settle in a town forty miles from Clarksville where he is finally caught. Aside from lacking reality, the situation unduly drags out the narrative.

What is the real significance of this story? Aside from an extremely interesting narrative well written, it has a definite sociological value. We are reminded of the complete decay of the southern system that has its roots firmly planted in the people and the environment that produces them. In attempting to destroy the weak, the so-called strong crush themselves in the process. As Mr. Higgins tells Mary:

> The Negroes should be protected from gross injustices, and it will only be in accomplishing this that the white people can hope to progress socially. No society functioning as this one does could hope for anything but the savagery we find here.

Yet Mr. Higgins does not have the strength to execute his convictions, for when Mary asks him to help her he is frightened by southern tradition. Notwithstanding, there is apparent a new attitude that would smash all traditions and build up a new South based on justice

(*Continued on page 283*)

**HOW** have the Negroes of Chicago achieved more in politics than Negroes in other cities? **READ:**

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*By* Harold F. Gosnell

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# LETTERS from READERS

## Blames Columbus Citizens

To the Editor of The Crisis:—I have read with much interest the article by G. A. Steward appearing in the August Crisis. There is a large modicum of truth in this article in so far as it relates to conditions at Ohio State University. But in assessing the responsibility for this situation largely upon the colored student body I think Mr. Steward errs. The student body may be justly censurable for their apparent supineness, but the real responsibility should be placed where it belongs,—at the feet of the colored citizens of Columbus, Ohio. They have stood supinely and selfishly by while a city which was once liberal and "free" has been transformed into a southern community.

Columbus' colored population has literally lost its soul; there is an almost complete absence of the spirit of protest which should animate the social life of any minority group. The Columbus branch of the N.A.A.C.P. is a typical example. It is almost inert, and would not even exist in name but for one or two courageous souls who will not willingly submit to existing conditions.

A few years ago I appeared in Columbus at the instance of the branch to voice a protest against further school segregation. This was purely a local matter which any local group should have handled expeditiously. The mere fact that it was necessary to call in an outsider on this local problem is indicative of the low estate of the Columbus group. One colored citizen of Columbus appeared with me to render moral support in my appearance before the Board of Education which sat with wooden faces and listened, and of course did nothing.

The case of Doris Weaver is another instance in point. Only one colored attorney from Columbus was willing to appear of record in the matter. Lawyers from other parts of the state carried the fight to the Supreme Court without fee, and if any other colored people in Columbus were even mildly interested I have yet to be apprised of that fact.

Other instances could be cited which are illustrative of the apathy of our Columbus group, and which demonstrates that it is a backward community. Mr. Steward's statement about the passivity of our students at Ohio State is confirmed by my own observations over a period of years. There is a complete lack of militancy and aggressiveness. The restlessness which has permeated student bodies all over the land seems never to have penetrated our considerable student body in Ohio's capital. There has been rebellion on the campus and liberality in the teaching staff. It was answered by expulsions of students and dismissals of liberal professors,—witness the case of Professor Herbert A. Miller. Today Ohio State has very little academic reputation; it does not rate favorably in comparison with a half dozen smaller institutions in Ohio; it is practically black-listed by college professor's associations; it is famed in athletics but not in culture.

I would not excuse the shortcomings of our student body, but with this deplorable situation on the campus, and the lack of stamina in the town what else is to be expected? How can the germs of militancy, zeal, and moral martyrdom thrive in such an unwholesome atmosphere? The answer is simple,—they have not and will not. When our Columbus community is aroused by some moral dynamite, and when it ceases to sell its political power for a few paltry jobs, it will generate a spirit which will penetrate even the dank cultural morass of Ohio State University.

Harry E. Davis
Cleveland, O.

## Against Private Ownership

To the Editor of The Crisis:—On its surface, the question as to whether Negroes should join unions, and A. F. of L. unions in particular, seems highly debatable. Answers will come from those on both sides, the arguments will cancel out, and the net result will be futility. The truth is that the question cannot be answered from the narrow point of view of whether membership in a union will advance the immediate economic status of the Negro. This will be determined by the character of the individual union and the point of view of its membership and leadership.

Yet the question can be answered, but only after we have analyzed the economic system under which we live, the causes of race prejudice, and the purposes which organization must serve.

We are in the sixth year of a depression. Classical economists, whose economic theory affords no explanation of depressions, are unable to point a way out, excepting to assert, ever more vociferously, that wages must come down (in the interest of greater profits), or if this is politically inexpedient, prices must soar while wages are held to low, present levels (again for the sake of greater profits). Both methods have been tried, and profits, at least, have risen. Yet the depression remains.

Let us face a few facts. The productive plant we now have, if operated at capacity, could supply goods and services enough to give each family over $4,000 a year. Instead, the average family gets little more than $1,000 a year, while over 11 million workers are unemployed, 20 million persons are on relief, and many people, particularly Negroes in rural districts, are gradually starving while relief is refused.

Under these circumstances, with the productive plant "overbuilt" and people unable to buy, what capitalist is going to invest money in increasing the plant? Yet only with such expenditure in huge and ever increasing amounts can we enjoy "prosperity." And not only this fact, but many others, point a sinister finger toward the future. Recovery, on a scale sufficient to relieve greatly the burden of unemployment, is quite impossible. Unemployment on a vast scale is now a permanent feature of the American scene.

This being true, unemployment relief must continue. Every month the mountain of debt, local and national, rises like an active volcano. And, like the volcano, an explosion is imminent. Inflation we have already experienced in rising prices, and it has just begun. Sooner or later the cost of living will soar off with the sky as the limit, while wages and relief, having no wings, will lie dying in the dust.

Never in history has any nation faced so menacing a situation—a combination of unprecedented unemployment and threatening inflation. And no precedent will be found in history for the magnitude of the collapse and the outright starvation that the future brings on ever hastening wings.

The catastrophe, when it comes, will be no respecter of race. The homocidal Fascism which will inevitably accompany it, will enforce the starvation of the Negro, the Jew, the radical and labor generally. Rescue will be for capitalists and politicians first; white, native Americans, second; and Jews and Negroes last.

Yet today our fertile acres will produce as much as ever, and our idle factories are eager to produce the necessities we all must have. Who, with this nightmare before his eyes, and who, knowing that the future reality is likely to be worse than the most active and pessimistic imagination can conjure up, will refuse to recognize in the private ownership of the means of production and in the private control of the wheels that refuse to turn the source of our troubles?

It is private ownership alone that is responsible for poverty in the midst of plenty; and it is the existence of economic struggle where there should be co-operation that is the chief cause of racial antagonism.

Only through organization can the masses be reached and won over to a program for changing this system of enforced poverty; only through organization can the tactics of ruthless employers, who pit the foreigner against the native, and the Negro against the white, be overcome.

The immediate gains from organization are not likely to be great, for the system that pays wages is dying. But only through organization and education can all workers and farmers, regardless of race, build a future society which will give us all the right to work, and which will make certain the final disappearance of all racial antagonisms.

Robert Cromwell
New Orleans, La.

## Thinks Separate Schools Would Provide Teaching Jobs

To the Editor of The Crisis:—I think the August number of The Crisis was the most wonderful issue that you have turned out for many moons. Every page was brimming with heart throbs and thought-provoking reflections. But it is the penetrating article by Dr. Charles H. Thompson about which I wish to speak.

Dr. Thompson, certainly proved his point beyond a reasonable doubt, that separate schools promote mis-education. And too, he did it with such rare erudition and such genial humor, that even the philistine was not made to feel badly. But when you begin to think about the matter, most of us did not have to be convinced of this fact. It is so plain that even "the wayfaring need not err." Therefore it seems to me that the learned doctor has used an overly amount of ammunition to kill a sparrow.

When one reads page after page of this issue of this magazine, he cannot help from being impressed with the group of young men and women who have emerged from the various educational institutions this year. Then if you will look back over the files of The Crisis at the educational numbers of former years, you can but have the same impression. I fail to see any reason to be alarmed at having such graduates as these go out to teach black boys and girls. I would feel just as safe to have the youth of our race in the hands of these teachers as the teacher of any other race.

In educational affairs as in almost everything else, we do not have ideal conditions. It is a matter of taking what you have and making the best of it. No one with a thimble full of reason will say that the separate school is ideal, but when the thing is forced upon you, it is a point of wisdom to make the best of it. Instead of losing time crying and whining because your children cannot sit on the same seat with white children and be instructed by white teachers, let us spend our time and energy in making our schools just as good or better than that of other races. I fail to see anything so holy and ennobling about the mixed school.

It seems to me that this is a time when we should stop and think things through and meet the issues in a practical way. It is well enough to deal in philosophy and high sounding dissertations, but this is no time to play the ostrich. Everybody knows that only a small number of our teachers can get employment in the mixed schools, even in New York, Chicago or Cleveland. Of course they have a good many, but nothing to what they should have in comparison to the number of Negro children. Many of these schools are in reality mixed only in name. They have mostly white teachers and mostly colored students. The facts do not show that the New York and Chicago schools produce any higher type of students that that of Washington, or St. Louis or Gary.

Even though there may be some disadvantages in separate schools, I feel that the advantages of having our own teachers far outweighs such disadvantage. We cannot belittle the fact that we must make a place for our young men and women who are leaving college. Why educate them anyway, if you do not think they are fit to teach your schools. If we colored people snub them and throw them out on the streets, what more can you expect of white people? Strange as it seems, we want others to do what we will not do for ourselves.

Dr. Dennis A. Bethea
Hammond, Ind.

### Thank You

To the Editor of The Crisis:—Accept my heartiest congratulations for publishing in the August Crisis the splendid article by Dr. Charles H. Thompson, "The Negro Separate School." I feel that the article clearly outlines the course Negroes should follow, and expresses the philosophy of the N.A.A.C.P. with reference to education. I do wish every Negro in America could read and re-read it, because Negroes are, themselves, largely responsible for the curse of separate schools.

Sidney A. Jones, Jr.
Chicago, Ill.

### Appeal in Montjoy Case

To the Editor of The Crisis:—The attention of your readers is called to the case of John Montjoy, Negro youth of Covington, Kentucky, who has been sentenced to be hanged on an alleged charge of rape, and whose hope lies in widespread petitions on the part of liberals and others who are concerned in the securing of justice and equal rights for Negroes.

An investigation conducted by a committee of representatives of the American Civil Liberties Union, The International Labor Defense and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reveals the following facts in the case:

(1) Negroes are and have been excluded from the jury panel.

(2) The alleged confession of the accused was obtained 7 days after arrest at 3:30 in the morning, under circumstances strongly indicating that the defendant's charge of duress and coercion is true.

(3) Although the police had the opportunity for submitting the woman to an immediate medical examination after the alleged act, no such examination was made.

(4) The court-appointed defense counsel presented no evidence of any kind in defense, not even putting the defendant on the stand.

On the above facts the committee bases its appeal for support in a campaign to secure reversal of the conviction and a new trial, which is now before the Court of Appeals.

James T. Whitney,
N. A. A. C. P.
Mary D. Brite,
American Civil Liberties Union.
Edward Leavitt,
International Labor Defense.
Cincinnati, O.

### Imitation of Life Again

To the Editor of The Crisis:—After reading a criticism in the March issue of The Crisis written by a lady from Michigan, I would like to present a few facts which perhaps she overlooked in her review of the recent picture "Imitation of Life."

There are a number of persons who saw the picture and have the same criticisms to offer as this lady which to my mind are unfair to the picture and the stars.

The picture plainly represents two different stages in the Negro's development. One represented by Louise Beavers, that of the old-fashioned Negro, as we may call it today, but it is this type whom you and I have to thank for our present status in society, for had it not been for this docile type which has played on the feelings of our Nordic friends and caused them to spend vast sums of money for high schools, colleges and universities which now open wide their doors to us.

The other type portrayed by Fredi Washington represented the modern Negro, who wants to get away from the old precedent set up by our foreparents and wants to shift for itself. Along with this the new Negro has seen the advantages of being able to pass, or to cross the color line. Those familiar with the East can readily pick out a great number who are holding jobs with companies where if it were known that they were colored would lose their jobs at once.

Those of us who read Mr. Schuyler's book some years past can see parts of it in the picture.

The white man knows that it is the Negro's idea to be white if he can, the Negro knows it, too, but is ashamed to mention it. But he will act it by buying all kinds of beauty preparations for making the hair straight and bleaching the skin.

The writer will admit that all of the Negroes do not fit into the two types described, but that does not destroy the fact that they do exist.

I would like to take the lady from Michigan on a tour through the East and South, where the bulk of the Negro population is, and if she were to spend a few weeks in the various communities, hear and see the thought and actions of the Negro, I believe then that her criticism of the picture would be greatly changed.

Frank T. Wood, Jr.
Baltimore, Md.

## Ethiopia

(*Continued from page* 263)

country lacks money, skilled engineers, mechanics, technical aids and machinery for an industrial undertaking.

There is a subtle boycott against them by the powers to force them to yield to terms. Afro-Americans can help by using concerted pressure on our government to use every effort to prevent an attack by Italy. At the same time, we should be prepared to help in the reconstruction of the country; first by sending competent economists, engineers, educators to consult with the Emperor and to get first hand knowledge of the situation with which he is faced, with the help of the State Department. Then having appraised the situation, understood the difficulties to be faced, made a study of the cost in money and machinery and technical help, we can then set out to translate this knowledge into action.

## Book Review

(*Continued from page* 281)

and equality. We catch the point of view of a younger generation that if but given a chance to exercise its thought would eradicate much of the tragedy of this dehumanized land. Despite the fact that Mr. Rylee occasionally lapses into an old thought such as, Mose "felt rising within him the lassitude of his people," he has written a well balanced novel that should enjoy popularity through both Negro and white readers.

James O. Hopson.

## Engineers

(*Continued from page* 269)

reports in *The Annalist* that there are in the United States the following number of buildings in which equipment could be installed: 22,500 theaters, 1,500 department stores, 10,000 office buildings, 20,000 banks, 26,000 hotels and 9,400 hospitals. At the end of 1933 there were 648 air-conditioned railroad passenger cars. By the end of 1934, the number had passed 2,500. There are now nearly 5,000, but less than 10% of the total number of passenger cars. Is there any wonder these engineers see their work expanding in the future?

But, of course, the air-condition engineers are looking to the installations in private homes and apartment buildings to effect such an industrial boom as those caused by the automobile and radio. They see in the technical difficulties which confront this extension of their work the great challenge of the industry. They are confident, however, of their ability to surmount all obstacles and that the response to their activities in the near future will be renewed prosperity.

### Tried to Discourage Him

Howard Shaw has implicit faith in the future of the industry, such faith as he had thirteen years ago in himself and his ability. But more, he believes, with himself as a modest example, that there will be opportunities in the industry for a large number of trained colored men.

"You know, when I studied engineering," he explains, "there were many people who tried to discourage me. Even my white instructors at the University of Michigan regarded me and my future dubiously. Doctors, lawyers, teachers, might go from college and succeed, but there just didn't seem to be any field for colored engineers. But that did not discourage me, or maybe I had gone too far to afford to be discouraged. At any rate, I finished my course and came out into the world.

"A former Pullman porter, Perry Parker, president of the Pullman Porters Benefit Association, obtained a job for me in the Pullman company shops. I have been with the Pullman company ever since. The opportunities which I, and other colored men workng with me, have had, have convinced me that there is a future in the air-conditioning industry for technically trained colored men. They must be practical and they must be willing to work with their hands as well as their pencils and instruments."

### Aaron Douglas Seeks Photographs for Book

Aaron Douglas, well known Negro artist, who illustrated James Weldon Johnson's "God's Trombones" and Paul Morand's "Black Magic" for Viking Press, is collecting material for a book of photographs to be called "Portrait of the American Negro." The book will present a broad panorama of Negro life, including photographic representations of historical episodes in which Negroes played outstanding roles; sociologic trends in Negro communities; political, religious and idealistic movements; Negro leaders, teachers, business men, athletes, artists, etc. Mr. Douglas would like to hear from photographers, or others, who have material along these lines. His address is 409 Edgecombe Avenue, New York; telephone, Edgecombe 4-9467.

### Apex Forges Ahead

With offices and colleges for the scientific teaching of beauty culture located in various cities and with over fifteen thousand agents selling their beauty preparations in every state in the Union and numerous foreign countries, The Apex News and Hair Co., Inc., with principal offices in Atlantic City, N. J., is recognized today as one of the most successful and leading business institutions among Negroes. The remarkable growth of this company, founded by Mrs. Sara Spencer Washington a few years ago, is without parallel.

Over one thousand students are enrolled in the colleges maintained by the company in New York City, Brooklyn, Newark, Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Baltimore, Washington, D. C., Richmond, Va., and Chicago. Competent instructresses who receive their training under the personal supervision of Mrs. Washington are always in charge of these colleges. The thoroughness of the training given a student can best be attested to by the result of a board examination recently held in Pennsylvania. Twenty-nine Apex-trained beauticians took the examination, necessary in that state before one is permitted to practice and all passed. Two hundred women and men are employed as teachers, salesmen, managers, supervisors, laboratory workers and chemists while an additional fifteen thousand agents earn a livelihood selling Apex preparations.

So rapid has been the enrollment of students in several of the colleges that an expansion program was put into operation two years ahead of schedule. In Philadelphia, a new building, occupying over four thousand square feet of working space was recently dedicated. This college, alone, has more students enrolled than any school of beauty culture in the state, white or colored; a recent graduating class numbering two hundred and fifteen.

Mrs. Washington recently acquired a one hundred and twenty acre farm on the outskirts of Egg Harbor, N. J., which has been fully cultivated and is now numbered among the best in the state. It is her plan to establish a shelter for unfortunate girls on this farm, also to use the same as a haven for the Apex beautician who, because of advanced years, is no longer able to follow her profession. For several years she has maintained the Apex Rest in Atlantic City, where beauticians and agents of the company enjoy their vacations. Fresh eggs, milk and vegetables from the Apex farm are served daily.

## Negro Health

(*Continued from page 280*)

white patients to accept colored physicians and colored nurses is merely a reflection of white professional attitude: white people accept and demand the most intimate service from Negroes in other capacities. The fixation on this taboo would quickly disappear in the absence of its enforcement by traditional professional practice, and this would be far-reaching in its effectiveness toward the removal of an abnormal strain upon the daily lives of 12,000,000 people in this country, with benefit to the whole order of society."

These are some of the factors controlling the health of the American Negro, and they may be summarized as follows: (1) poverty, (2) discrimination, (3) bad housing, (4) lethargic public health officials, (5) quasi-erudite research scholars, (6) prejudiced health organization officials, (7) misguided foundation activities, (8) traditional color taboo on the part of the white medical profession.

May the day soon come when these handicaps are removed in the interest of the future lives that can be saved for America and the world in general.

**Children's Number**

*Photographs of children will be a feature of the November* Crisis, *out October 23. They should be sent to* The Crisis, *69 Fifth Avenue, New York City, not later than October 1*

### A K A Sorority Protests Jim Crowing of Nurses

The Tau Omega and Lambda Chapters of the A K A sorority, located in New York City, have adopted a resolution condemning the restrictions on the training of Negro nurses in tax-supported hospitals in the city of New York and asking "That the aforementioned discriminatory practices be immediately discontinued so that Negro student and graduate nurses may be admitted to all tax-supported hospitals on the same basis as other student and graduate nurses, and thus may have equal opportunity for employment (in their chosen field) and for professional and remunerative advancement."

### Maturity

(*To Our Congressman*)

*By* Shirley Graham

I am a Negro:  
(*Well do we know*)  
Had I been born in France or Spain  
Or in that land of burning sands and copper skies,  
I should have been a Frenchman, Spaniard or a Mussulman;  
I should have bowed 'neath lofty domes  
While cross my dusky face stole jeweled light deep set in solemn measure.  
Or, in some snow-white mosque,  
Outlined by towering minarets,  
I should have knelt.  
But here clear chimes bade me go on my way,  
I prayed apart and loudly sang their liturgy—  
But to my music.  
I ate in kitchen of the scraps they left,  
I did not over-eat; the dog was fat.  
But I was doing what he could not do—  
Growing to manhood.  
Now, that I am a man,  
Gaunt, lean, with muscles hard and rippling,  
I look afar:  
You sing America—My lines are blurred,  
I am a Negro.

### To Console You

*By* Josephine Schuyler

I will die tomorrow, my lover,  
I will die without fear of the earth,  
I will know and believe and accept  
My death as the drumbeat of birth;  
I will know that the call that I hear  
Is a voice so old and profound  
I will go without haste, without fear,  
To my tryst with the seed in the ground:  
To the kernel, the bulb and the acorn  
That have waited in darkness a year  
To take root and make leaf and grow thorn  
And quicken the grave that is near;  
Like Bacchus and Buddha and Jezu  
Who died for love of all life,  
I will die, my lover, and leave you  
A tree to grow from your wife:  
A mansion of green through the winter,  
To shade you in midsummer heat,  
To greet you each morning in birdsong,  
To bless you as you lie at her feet.

## Sweet Case

(*Continued from page 271*)

defending his home then the very foundations of American justice were shaken. Mr. Darrow recounted the history of the Negro and his rapid progress since the Civil War. He detailed the mistreatments which Negroes had received at the hands of white men and said that this case simmered down to the question: "Has the American Negro the right to defend his home against trespassers?".

Darrow's final speech, which lasted seven hours, was a scathing arraignment of the case. Hurling defiance at the white race with every word he pronounced, he finally closed with the statement that it was simply a case of color prejudice. "Take the color out of this case," he said, "you have nothing left."

The jury retired on May 13, 1926. The crowd, which had been held spellbound by Darrow's words, sat tensely awaiting the verdict. After three and one-half hours of deliberation the jury returned. The foreman, George Small made his dramatic announcement: "Not Guilty." A simple statement but enough to release the pent-up emotions of the spectators in the courtroom. Tears mingled with smiles as citizens from all walks of life filed past to voice their congratulations to Henry Sweet. And thus ended what has been called "the most dramatic court trial involving the fundamental rights of the Negro in the history of this country."

### Need for Organization

The study of the Sweet case brings home a keen realization of the necessity for Negro organization and of the importance of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. At the time of the attack on the Sweets, Detroit had a population of 1,242,044. of this number 81,831 were Negroes, totally unorganized Negroes. Although a large number of business and professional people were well-to-do and most of the laborers were receiving high wages, little of this money went into organizations devoted to Negro welfare. When this outrage brought the need for action by a group of people moving as one, Negro Detroit was helpless, unable to act. It was indignant, it was outraged, it was angry, and it was hurt. But it was, nevertheless, unorganized.

At this critical moment the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People entered the scene. It offered to Detroit its trained staff, accustomed to such cases, and its many facilities for securing aid from varied sources. Because this well-known organization was interested in the case, leading lawyers proffered their services. Clarence Darrow, one of the foremost criminal lawyers in America, took charge of the case for $5,000, one-tenth of his usual fee. Other barristers aided for similarly low fees. Negro newspapers widely publicized the affair and published fervent pleas for money with which to pursue it further. These appeals were not answered nearly so well as they should have been. One cent from each of the twelve million Negroes in this country would have secured the astounding sum of $120,000. But much, much less was received. This was not the fault of the leading Negroes of the nation. Many of them gave handsomely. But offsetting these good efforts was the lassitude exhibited by many millions who gave nothing. Those who were so delinquent were evidently of the sort who "have to be shown." If such a tragedy struck them or some one dear to them they would immediately appeal to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People or some similar

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organization and expect instant aid. But there is no "similar organization." The Association is the only one of its kind in the world. Every Negro should support it because, aside from the ballot, organization is the Negro's only hope for securing and maintaining his rights. Since it is obvious that Negroes do not use their voting power to advantage, a simple process of elimination emphasizes the importance of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as an organization in the life and welfare of the American Negro.

The Sweet Case intensified the hope that there may be some day in our country in the lives of all men a Song of Honor, as in Ralph Hodgson's poem:

"The song of men of all sorts and kinds,
As many tempers, moods, and minds,
As leaves are on a tree,
As many faiths and castes and creeds,
As many human bloods and breeds,
As in the world may be."

## Tennessee A. and I. College Will Grant M.A. Degree

Agricultural and Industrial State College, Nashville, Tennessee, has been granted the right to offer a program of studies leading to the master's degree in elementary, secondary and vocational education by unanimous vote of the Sixty-ninth General Assembly of Tennessee. The institution is the youngest of the land grant colleges for Negroes, was established by legislative act in 1909 as a normal school, began instruction in 1912, first gave the bachelors degree in 1924. W. J. Hale is the president.

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